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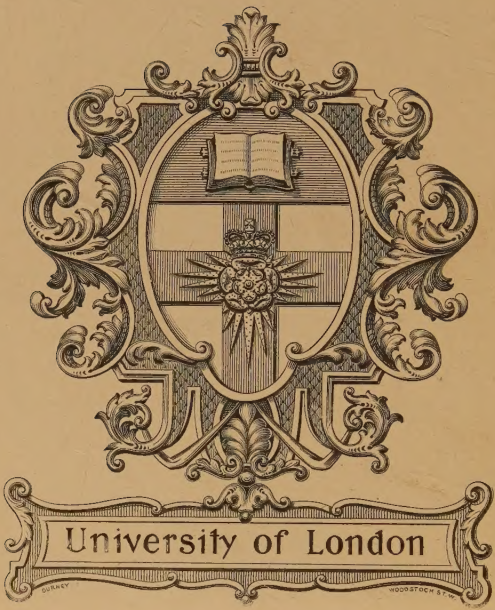
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

2 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CXVI.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE FIFTH DAY OF DECEMBER
TO THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1902.

SIXTEENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill without Amendment 142

London Water (Re-Committed) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendment, as amended, proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'appointed,' to insert the words 'as follows:—Ten by the London County Council; two by the Common Council of the city; two by the Council of the city of Westminster; one by the Council of each of the other metropolitan boroughs; one by the County Council of Essex; two by the Council of the Borough of West Ham; one by the Council of the Urban District of East Ham; one by the Council of the Urban District of Leyton; one by the Council of the Urban District of Walthamstow; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Buckhurst Hill, Chingford, Loughton, Waltham Holy Cross,

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Wanstead, and Woodford; one by the County Council of Kent; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst, and Penge; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Bexley, Dartford, Erith and Foot's Cray; one by the County Council of Middlesex; one by the Council of the Urban District of Tottenham; one by the Council of the Urban District of Willesden; one by the Council of the Borough of Ealing and the Councils of the Urban Districts of Acton and Chiswick; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Brentford, Hampton, Hampton Wick, Hanwell, Heston and Isleworth, Sunbury, Teddington, Twickenham; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Edmonton, Enfield, and Southgate; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Hornsey and Wood Green; one by the County Council of Surrey; one by the Council of the Borough of Kingston and the Councils of the Urban Districts of East and West Molesey, Esher and the Dittons, Ham and Surbiton; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Barnes, the Maldens and Coombe, and Wimbledon; one by the County Council of Hertfordshire; three by the Conservators of the River Thames; one by the Lee Conservancy Board.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 143

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—
"To leave out line 11."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 144
Mr. Corrie Grant (*Warwickshire, Rugby*) 145
Mr. D. J. Morgan (*Essex, Walthamstow*) 146
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 146
Mr. Walter Long 147
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 147
Mr Walter Long 148
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 148
Mr. Whitmore (*Chelsea*) 149
Capt. Norton (*Newington W.*) 149
Dr. Macnamara 149
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 150

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Rea (*Gloucester*) 150

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—
"In line 12, after 'Chingford,' to insert 'Ilford.'"—(*Mr Rea.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Ilford' be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Mr. Walter Long 150
Mr. Sydney Buxton 151

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Mr. Corrie Grant 151
Mr. Sydney Buxton 152

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Rea 153

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out sub-Section (4)."—(*Mr. Rea.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Sydney Buxton 156
Mr. John Burns 157
Mr. Walter Long 158

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out 'shall,' and insert 'may.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'shall' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Lough 158

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Corrie Grant 159

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out 'and' and insert 'or.'"—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'and' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 159
Mr. Corrie Grant 159
Mr. Lough... 159
Mr. John Burns 160
Mr. Lough 160

Amendment negatived.

Amendments made—

"In page 2, line 1, by inserting after the word 'Chairman' the words 'or either of them'; and by inserting after the word 'such' the words 'salary or.'"—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 2, to leave out 'the Board' and insert 'in the case of persons appointed by the Local Government Board, that Board, and in any other case the Water Board.'"—(*Mr. W. F. D. Smith.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'the Board' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Sydney Buxton 160
Capt. Jessel (St. Pancras, S.) 161
Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster) 161
Mr. John Burns 161
Mr. Walter Long 161

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment made—

“In line 4, by leaving out ‘fourth’ and inserting ‘third.’”—*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, “That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. Lough 162
Mr. Sydney Buxton 163
Mr. Walter Long 165
Dr. Macnamara 168
Mr. Thornton (Clapham) 169
Mr. John Burns 170
Sir George Fardell (Paddington) 173
Mr. Corrie Grant 174

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 124; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 610.)

Clause 2:—

Mr. Lough 177

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 14, to leave out the words, ‘as compensation for the transfer of their undertaking,’ and insert ‘in consideration for the undertaking so transferred.’”—(*Mr Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”

Mr. Walter Long 177
Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire) 178
Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 179
Mr Lyttelton (Warwick and Leamington) 180
Mr. Atherley Jones (Durham, N.W.) 180
Mr. Walter Long 181

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 14, to leave out the words ‘as compensation.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”

Captain Norton 182

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 121 ; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 611.)

Mr. Lough 183

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 15, to leave out the words 'as may be agreed on between the Board and the Company, or in default of agreement.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 185
Mr. Haldane 186
Mr. Gutherie (Tower Hamlets, Bow) 187
Mr. Sydney Buxton 187
Dr. Macnamara 187
Mr. Corrie Grant 188
Mr. John Burns 189
Mr. Walter Long... 191

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Sydney Buxton... 191

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 24, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words 'and any such notice shall state the amount of the sum to be paid, or of the water stock to be issued under the proposed agreement.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lough 192

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.) 192
Mr. Walter Long 192
Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) 193

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, after the first 'company,' to insert 'and the right exercised by the Metropolitan Water Companies jointly of appointing one of the Thames Conservators shall be exercised by the Water Board in their stead.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 193
Mr. Haldane 194

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Mr. Lough 194

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, to leave out from 'and,' to end of paragraph." —(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 195

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Mr. Lough 195

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 4."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 196
Mr. Sydney Buxton 196

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-nine minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

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House adjourned at five minutes before Five o'clock till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

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BETTING.—Paper (communicated this day) to be printed. [No. 389.]

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the London Water (re-committed) Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 122; Noes, 11. (Division List No. 612.) ... 244

London Water (Re-Committed) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 5:—

Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 246

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 13, to leave out 'compensation,' and insert 'money or stock.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'compensation' stand part of the Clause."

The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 247
Mr. Lough 247
Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 247

The Amendment was agreed to. It was also agreed to substitute, in line 21, "issued" for "satisfied," and in line 25, to leave out "compensation" and insert "money or stock."

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 27, to leave out 'fifth' and insert 'fourth.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 27, after 'Act' to add, 'This Sub-section shall not apply to the new River Company.'"—(*Colonel Bowles.*)

Agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7:—

Mr. Fletcher Moulton (*Cornwall, Launceston*) 248

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 10, to leave out from the word 'as,' to the word 'debenture,' in line 11, and insert the words 'in the opinion of the arbitrators will be equivalent in value to an equally good security producing the same income as the.'"—(*Mr. Fletcher Moulton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 252
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 254
Sir E. Durning Lawrence (*Cornwall, Truro*) 255
Mr. Lough 256
Mr. Cohen (*Islington, E.*) 257
Mr. Edmund Robertson 257
Mr. Walter Long 259

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 119; Noes, 45. (Division List No. 613.)

Mr. George Whiteley (*Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) 263

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 32, to leave out sub-Section (6)."—(*Mr. George Whiteley*).

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 263

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Frederick Banbury 264

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 33, to leave out the word 'not.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'not' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 264
Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire) 265

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. George Whiteley 265

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 33, to leave out the word 'sixty,' and insert the word 'thirty.'"—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'sixty' stand part of the Clause."

The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 266
Mr. Lough 266
Sir J. Blundell Maple 268

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 119 ; Noes, 48. (Division List No. 614.)

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 :—

Mr. Haldane 269

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 36, to leave out 'eighty,' and insert 'one hundred.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 17, to leave out 'also.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'also' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 269

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Atherley-Jones (Durham, N.W.) 270

"In page 5, line 28, after the word 'secured,' to insert 'and the court of arbitration shall estimate the amount by which the capital value of such estate, houses, and property will be enhanced in consequence of such freedom and discharge, and shall deduct the same from the value of the undertaking of the New River Company as determined under Section 23 (*a*) of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Atherley-Jones*).

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Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 270

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Corrie Grant (*Warwickshire, Rugby*)... 271

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 8, after the word 'passed,' to insert 'provided always that such shares shall not be deemed to be freehold property for the purposes of the Parliamentary or any other franchise.'"—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane 272
The Attorney General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 272
Mr. Corrie Grant 272
Colonel Bowles (*Middlesex, Enfield*) 273
Mr. Richards (*Finsbury, E.*) 273

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clause 10 :-

Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 274

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 8, to leave out from 'for,' to 'any,' in line 10."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 274
Mr. Sydney Buxton 275

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 10 was agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 39, after the word 'accordingly,' to add 'and not only to the parts so supplied, but also to the remainder of that district, except the portion supplied by the East London Waterworks Company.'"—(*Mr. Joseph Howard.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 275
Mr. Lough 276

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 12 stand part of the Bill."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Mr. Lough 276
Mr. Walter Long 276
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 277
Mr. Hudson (*Hertfordshire, Hitchin*) 277

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 13 :—

Mr. Lough 277

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 9, to leave out the second word 'the,' and insert the word 'any.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'the' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 278
Mr. Sydney Buxton 278

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 139, Noes, 47. (Division List No. 615.)

Amendment proposed.

"In page 10, line 10, to leave out 'or,' and insert 'and may if required.'"—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'of' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 281

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Dr. Macnamara 281

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 10, to leave out from the word 'Ware,' to the second word 'supply' in line 11."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 281
Mr. Sydney Buxton 282
Mr. Lough 282
Mr. John Burns 283
Mr. Bousfield (*Hackney, N.*) 284
Mr. Abel Smith (*Hertfordshire, Hertford*) 284

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 140 ; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 616.)

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Question proposed, "That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill."—*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Mr. Lough 285

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 14.

Mr. Cremer (*Shoreditch, Haggerston*) 285

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, to leave out Clause 14."—(*Mr. Cremer.*)

Question proposed, "That Clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 286
Mr Sydney Buxton 286
Mr. Lough 287

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 :—

Mr. George Whiteley 287

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 3, to leave out all the words after 'be,' to end of sub-Section, and insert 'met by a uniform increase in the water rates charged for domestic supply.'"—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 288

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 15, page 12, line 4, to leave out 'parishes,' and insert 'metropolitan boroughs.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Captain Norton (*Newington, W.*) 289

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, after the word 'urban,' to insert the words 'and rural.'"—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 290
Mr. Lough 290

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 37 ; Noes, 136. (Division List No. 617.)

Amendments made—

"In page 12, line 11, to leave out 'parish'; in page 12, line 14, to leave out 'parishes municipal'; in page 12, line 17, to leave out 'a parish in'; in page 12, lines 23 and 24, to leave out '(if necessary) be raised out of, and as part of the local rate; that is to say,' and insert 'be paid'; in page 12, line 25, after 'city,' to insert 'out of'; in page 12, line 26, to leave out 'a parish in'; in page 12, lines 26 and 27, to leave out 'the general rate,' and insert 'as part of the expenses incurred by the council thereof'; in page 12, line 28, after 'district,' to insert 'out of.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Mr. Herbert Robertson (*Hackney, S.*) 291

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 35, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words, 'The Water Board shall exercise their power of charging water rates in such manner as to produce within three years from the appointed day throughout the limits of supply an equalisation of such rates as between all parts of the area, both in respect of charges on rateable value of the premises supplied and special services rendered.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 292
Mr. Sydney Buxton 293
Mr. Corrie Grant 294
Mr. Walter Long 294
Mr. Lough 294

It being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

London Water (Re-Committed) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 15:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 35, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words, 'The Water Board shall exercise their powers of charging water rates in such manner as to produce within three years from the appointed day throughout the limits of supply an equalisation of such rates as between all parts of the area, both in respect of charges on rateable value of the premises supplied and special services rendered.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lough 295
Capt. Jessel (*St. Pancras, S.*) 296

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments were proposed by Mr. WALTER LONG, and agreed to, which left sub-Sections 6 and 7, as follows—

"(6) The Water Board shall not, until Parliament otherwise determine, reduce the rates charged for the supply of water below those in force during the quarter ending the twenty-fourth day of June one thousand nine hundred and two, unless the Board are satisfied that such a reduction would not cause a deficiency in the water fund; but the Water Board shall, within three years after the appointed day, introduce into Parliament a Bill providing for uniform scales of charges applicable throughout the limits of supply. (7) Within three years after the appointed day the Water Board may prepare and publish in the *London Gazette* a scheme enabling their charges for the supply of water to be collected together with any local rate. Any local or rating authority within the limits of supply may transmit to the Local Government Board their objections to any such scheme within forty days after the scheme is published in the *London Gazette*.

Mr. Lough 297
Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 297

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 40, at end, to add, 'Within three years after the appointed day the Water Board may prepare a scheme enabling their assessments and charges for water supplied for domestic and trade purposes to be assessed, levied, and collected half-yearly to September 30 and March 31 respectively, together with the general, poor, or general district rate. Each constituent authority and rating authority within the area of the Water Board shall consider and transmit their objections to the Local Government Board within forty days after the scheme is published in the *London Gazette*.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay*.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Col. Bowles 301
Mr. Walter Long 301

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16:—

Sir Frederick Banbury 302

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, to line 29, leave out sub-Section (3)."—*Sir Frederick Banbury*.)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (3) stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 303

Amendment negatived. Clause 16 agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clause 18 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 19 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 6, to insert the words, 'and that the stamp duty charged on the Water Board for the purposes of The District Auditors Act, 1879, shall be such as the Treasury, after consulting with the Local Government Board, and having regard to the cost of the audit, may determine.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Lough 304

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 9, at end, to add, 'The constituent authorities shall have an independent right to be present at the audit of the the accounts of the Board, and to appeal with regard thereto. Copies of the accounts shall be furnished to each of the constituent authorities who shall be entitled to make representations to the Local Government Board with regard thereto, and that Board shall be empowered to give directions to the Water Board on the subject.'" —(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "These words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 304

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 20, 21, and 22 agreed to.

Clause 23 :—

Mr. Herbert Samuel 305

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 41, at end, to insert, 'Provided always that before the amount of any such salaries or other remuneration is fixed, the Water Board shall have an opportunity of submitting its views to the Local Government Board.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 305

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Sydney Buxton 306

Amendment proposed—

"In page 18, line 2, to leave out all the words after the word 'to,' to the end of the sub-Section, and insert the words 'the ascertainment, determination, and declaration by them of the fair and reasonable value of each Metropolitan Water Company, and the Court of Arbitration, in order to ascertain such value, shall inquire into and shall consider all the circumstances of the case.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

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Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 308

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 117 ; Noes, 31. (Division List No. 618).

Amendment proposed—

" In page 18, line 8, after 'settlement,' to add 'any of the constituent authorities shall be entitled to attend and give evidence before the Court of Arbitration.' "—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Sydney Buxton 309
Mr. Walter Long 310
Mr. Lough 311

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

" In page 19, line 6, after the word 'any,' to insert the words, 'costs, charges, and.' "—(*Mr. Lyttelton.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Mr. John Burns 311
Sir Robert Finlay 311
Mr. Sydney Buxton 312
Dr. Macnamara ... ... — 312
Mr. Lyttelton (*Warwick and Leamington*) 313

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24 :—

Captain Norton 313

Amendment proposed—

" In page 19, line 39, to leave out the words 'with the consent of the Local Government Board.' "—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long ... ... — ... 313

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 24 agreed to.

Clause 25 agreed to.

Clause 26 :—

Mr. Lough 314

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 22, line 5, to leave out sub-Section (1)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (1) stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 315
Mr. Lough... 315

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Lough 315

Amendment proposed—

"In page 22, line 15, to leave out sub-Section (2)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (2) stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 316

Amendment negatived.

Amendments made—

"In page 21, line 21, after 'general,' to insert 'or local.'" "In page 21, line 22, after 'companies,' to insert 'or any of them.'" "In page 21, line 22, to leave out 'them," and insert 'those provisions.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 27 :—

Mr. Cremer... 316
Mr. Walter Long 317
Mr. John Burns 317

Clause 27 agreed to.

Clauses 28, 29, and 30 agreed to.

Clause 31 :—

Mr. Lough 317
Mr. Walter Long 318

Clause 31 agreed to.

Clause 32 :—

Mr. Lough 318

Amendment proposed—

"In page 23, line 12, at end, to add the words 'Provided that the sum to be paid by the Water Board to the Company of Proprietors of the West Middlesex Waterworks for their right to supply in the part of the parish of Hendon aforesaid shall be separately determined by the court of arbitration and shall be repaid to the Water Board by the Colne Valley Water Company,"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Vicary Gibbs (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) 319
Mr. Grant Lawson 319
Mr. Sydney Buxton 320
Mr. Lough 320

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 29 ; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 619.)

Clause 32 agreed to.

Clause 33 :—

Mr. Lough 322

Amendment proposed—

"In page 23, line 22, at end, to add "Provided that the sum to be paid by the Water Board to the Company of Proprietors of the Lambeth Waterworks for their right of supplying water within the statutory districts of the South-West Suburban Water Company shall be separately determined by the court of arbitration and repaid to the Water Board by the South-West Suburban Water Company."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Grant Lawson... 323
Mr. Sydney Buxton 323

Amendment negatived.

Clause 33 agreed to.

Clauses 34, 35, and 36 agreed to.

Clause 37 :—

Mr. John Burns 323

Amendment proposed—

"In page 24, line 30, to leave out from 'means,' to 'one,' in line 31, and insert 'the first of January.'"—(*Mr. John Burns*).

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Grant Lawson 324
Mr. John Burns 324
Mr. Walter Long 324
Mr. Sydney Buxton 325
Mr. Walter Long 325

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 38, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47, agreed to.

Clause 48 :—

Mr. Lough... 325

Amendment proposed—

"In page 31, line 42, to leave out sub-Section (3)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (3) stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Walter Long 326
Mr. Sydney Buxton 326
Mr. Whitmore 326
Mr. John Burns 327
Col. Bowles 328

Amendment agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 620.)

Remaining Clauses agreed to.

First, Second, and Third Schedules agreed to.

Mr. Bigwood 329
Mr. Walter Long 329

Fourth Schedule:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 35, line 5, after 'shall,' to insert 'not.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'not' be there inserted."

Mr. Sydney Buxton 329
Mr. Walter Long 329

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Lough... 330

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 7, to insert '(a) is not a member of the constituent authority affecting him.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Grant Lawson 330

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Cremer 331

Amendment proposed—

"In page 35, line 7, at end, to insert '(a) has any pecuniary interest in any of the existing water companies.'"—(*Mr. Cremer.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long ... 331
Mr. John Burns ... 332

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Fourth Schedule and remaining Schedules agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 307.]

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-eight minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, TUESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition in favour of: of Conservatives and Unionists of Sheffield; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 333

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition against: of the School Board of Savoch, Aberdeenshire; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 333

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (Annual Series): No. 2919. Portugal. No. 2920. Chile (Supplementary) ... 333

TRANSVAAL.—Liquor Licensing Ordinance, 1902. (No. 32) ... 333

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).—Returns for the year 1900-1901... ... 333
Presented (by command) and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.—Report to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, patients seen, and miles travelled by the visitors of lunatics, pursuant to the Lunacy Act, 1890, between 1st April, 1902, and 30th September, 1902: laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 333

Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª Tomorrow ... 333

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Moved, "That the House do resolve itself into Committee on this Bill.—(*The Duke of Devonshire*).

Earl Carrington ... 334
The Lord Bishop of Manchester ... 340
The Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 341
Earl Spencer ... 348
The Duke of Rutland ... 349
Lord Davey ... 349

House in Committee (according to Order).

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Clause 1 :—

Lord Wenlock 352

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out 'ten' and to insert 'twenty.'"—(*Lord Wenlock.*)

Lord Herries 352
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 352

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

Lord Reay 353
Earl Beauchamp 354

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 19 and 20, to leave out 'seem to them desirable,' and to insert 'are necessary.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Lord Harris 354
Duke of Devonshire 355
Earl Spencer 356
The President of the Board of Education (*the Marquess of Londonderry*) 356
Lord Burghclere 357
Lord Tweedmouth 357
Lord Bishop of Winchester... 358

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 174 ; Not-Contents, 33.

Duke of Devonshire 359

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 21 and 22, to leave out 'including the training of teachers.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

Earl Spencer 360

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Earl Beauchamp 361

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, to leave out 'Local Government Board,' and to insert 'Board of Education.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Duke of Devonshire 361

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Davey 361
Duke of Devonshire 362

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Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 2, to insert the following new Clauses:—

(A.)—(1) A council, for the purpose of promoting education, may, amongst other matters—(*a*) aid any school to provide such education, or, with the consent of the Board of Education, take a transfer of any school which provides such education, and is not an elementary school: and (*b*) establish a school, and for that purpose provide land and buildings, whether by purchase, hiring, or otherwise; and (*c*) establish and maintain scholarships or exhibitions; and (*d*) supply or aid in supplying teachers; and (*e*) make inquiries with respect to the sanitary condition of the school buildings (including boarding houses) of any school within their area; and (*f*) make inquiries with respect to the education given by any school within their area, except a school which, in the opinion of the Board of Education, is of a non-local character; and (*g*) take such measures as they think fit for giving information to the public with respect to the result of such inquiries.

(2) The exercise of any powers under this Section shall require, in the case of an industrial, a day industrial, or a reformatory school, the consent of a Secretary of State, and in the case of a poor law school the consent of the Local Government Board.

(3) A council may guarantee, for a term not exceeding five years, any annual or other periodical payment required for the purposes of this Section, and may charge on the proper fund or rate any sum required to fulfil the guarantee.

(4) If a council make it a condition of giving aid under this Section that representatives of the council be added to the trustees or other governing body of the school, and the trustees or other governing body assent to the condition, those representatives shall for all purposes be trustees or members of the governing body of the school.

(B.)—(1) A council in the performance of their duties shall not give any preference or advantage to any school on the ground that it does or does or not belong, or is or is not in connection with, or under the management of, any particular Church, sect, or denomination, or that religious instruction is or is not given in the school.

(2) The council shall take care that every school aided by them is inspected and examined by such persons and in such manner as may be approved by the Board of Education with reference to the particular class of schools to which the school belongs, and shall satisfy themselves with respect to every such school: (*a*) that the buildings are sufficient and suitable as regards size, sanitary accommodation, convenience, repairs, and otherwise; and (*b*) that the furniture, fittings, and school apparatus are adequate; and (*c*) that there is an adequate staff of teachers; and (*d*) that proper discipline is maintained, that the course of education is sufficient and suitable, that the fees, if any, are suitable, and that the teaching is efficient; and (*e*) that proper accounts are kept showing the receipts and expenditure of the school; and (*f*) that the school is conducted in accordance with such regulations made by or in pursuance of any Statute, or made by the Board of Education as are applicable to the school.

(3) Every council shall make such Report and Returns, and give such information to the Board of Education, as the Board may from time to time require.—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Marquess of Londonderry 363

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 3 :—

Earl Beauchamp 364

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 8, after 'urban,' to insert 'or rural.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Duke of Devonshire 364
Lord Tweedmouth 365
Viscount Llandaff 365
Earl of Camperdown .. ..

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Viscount Halifax 366

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 24, to leave out from 'council' to the end of the sub-Section.'"—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

Lord Colchester 367
Lord Bishop of St. Asaph 368
Lord Bishop of Salisbury 369
Lord Stanmore 369
Duke of Devonshire 370

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Viscount Goschen 371

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 26, after 'provided' to insert 'except in cases where the local education authority, at the request of parents of scholars, or on other grounds, allow any religious instruction to be given in the school, college or hostel otherwise than at the cost of the authority.'"—(*Viscount Goschen.*)

The Lord Bishop of Rochester 372
Lord Tweedmouth 375
Viscount Halifax 376
Lord Bishop of Southwell 376
Lord Bishop of Hereford 377
Lord Ribblesdale 377
Lord Reay 377
Viscount Goschen 379
Duke of Devonshire 379
Earl Spencer 381

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 107 ; Not-Contents, 14.

Earl Beauchamp 383
Lord Bishop of Southwell 385

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Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 385
Lord Kinnaird ... 385
Earl Spencer ... 386
Duke of Devonshire ... 386
Lord Tweedmouth ... 387
The Lord Bishop of Newcastle ... 388
Lord Burghclere ... 389
Marquess of Londonderry ... 389
Earl Beauchamp ... 390

On Question, "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 121; Not-Contents, 19.

Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 391

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 38, after 'therefrom,' to insert '(3) in every aided school or college the local education authority shall appoint two members of the governing body.'"—(*Bishop of Hereford.*)

Marquess of Londonderry ... 391

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 38, to insert, '(4) The consent of the local education authority shall be required for dismissal of teachers in all schools and colleges provided or aided by the said authority under Part II. of this Act, and any teachers dismissed from one of the said schools or colleges may appeal to the Board of Education, whose decision shall be final.'"—(*Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

The Marquess of Londonderry ... 394
The Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 395

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 395

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 38, to insert 'in every aided school or college at which boarders are received, the local education authority shall require that suitable boarding arrangements are made for the reception of boarders whose parents belong to different religious denominations.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

The Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 397
The Lord Bishop of St. Asaph ... 397
Lord Burghclere ... 398
The Marquess of Londonderry ... 398
The Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 399

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

The Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 399

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Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert the following new Clause:—'The local education authority shall make suitable arrangements for continuation schools or classes in connection with elementary schools or otherwise; and shall have power to require that all children under seventeen years of age, if no longer attending school or under equivalent instruction, shall attend not less than sixty meetings of a duly recognised continuation class during each year till they reach that age, the responsibility for such attendance to rest on both parents and employers.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Lord James of Hereford 400
The Earl of Crewe... 401
The Marquess of Londonderry 401
Lord Ribblesdale 402
Lord Reay 403
The Marquess of Londonderry 403
Viscount Goschen 403
Earl Spencer 405
Duke of Devonshire 405
Lord Bishop of Hereford 406

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 5:—

Earl Beauchamp 406

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 3, after 'control,' insert 'management.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Duke of Devonshire 407

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6:—

Lord Bishop of Hereford 408

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 19, to leave out 'four' and insert 'two."—(*Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

The Earl of Crewe 408
Duke of Devonshire 409
The Earl of Rosebery 411
Lord Herries 414
Duke of Devonshire 415
Earl of Rosebery 417
Viscount Goschen 419
Lord Ribblesdale 421
Lord Bishop of Manchester 423
Lord Bishop of Hereford 423

On Question their Lordships divided:—Contents, 158; Not-Contents, 27.

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Viscount Halifax 425

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 30, after 'increased,' to insert '(*c*) If the trustees or managers of schools not provided by the local authority declare their intention to cease to conduct the school as a public elementary school, they shall be bound to give the local education authority six months' notice of such intention.'"—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 427
Viscount Halifax 427
The Duke of Devonshire 427

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Earl Beauchamp 428

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 30, at the end of the Clause, insert new sub-Section: '(4.) The managers of public elementary schools shall exercise such of the powers of the local education authority in relation to the control and management of the schools, with or without any conditions or restrictions, as the local authority may from time to time determine.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 429
Earl Beauchamp 429
Marquess of Londonderry... 430

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6:—

Marquess of Northampton 430
Marquess of Londonderry 431
Earl of Selborne 432
Duke of Devonshire 432

Clause 6 agreed to.

House resumed; to be again in Committee To-morrow.

ORDNANCE SURVEY IN IRELAND.

The Earl of Belmore 433
The Duke of Devonshire 433

House adjourned at a quarter past Twelve o'clock a.m. till Three o'clock p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY, 9th DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means ... 434

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) RETURNS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Local Taxation in Ireland for the year 1900–01 [by command]; to lie upon the Table 434

TRANSVAAL. — Copy presented of the Liquor Licensing Ordinance, 1902 (No. 32), for the Transvaal [by command]; to lie upon the Table 434

SPIRITS (ABERDEEN, ELGIN, AND INVERNESS.)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 4th December; *Mr. Gordon*]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House 434

LUNACY.—Copy of Report to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, the number of patients seen, and the number of miles travelled by the Visitors of Lunatics between 1st April and 30th September, 1902 [by Act] 435

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Return ordered, "of all the Draft Provisional Orders under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which in the Sessions of 1901 and 1902 respectively have been reported on by Commissioners; together with the names of the Commissioners; the first and also the last day of the sittings in each group; the number of days on which each body of Commissioners sat; the number of days on which each Commissioner has served; the number of days occupied by each Draft Provisional Order before Commissioners; the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; and the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved."—(*The Lord Advocate.*) 435

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 17.—Return ordered, "of Motions for Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17, showing the date of such Motion, the name of the Member proposing, the definite matter of urgent public importance, and the result of any Division taken thereon during Session 1902 (in the same form as, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper No. 346, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)... ... 435

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER NO. 25).—Return ordered, "respecting application of Standing Order No 25 (Closure of Debate) during Session 1902, under the following heads—

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Date when Closure moved.	By whom moved.	Question before House or Committee when moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether assent given to Motion or witheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers for and against.

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 347, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 435

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DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE.—Return ordered, "of the number of Divisions of the House in Session 1902; stating the subject of the Division, and the number of Members in the majority and minority, Tellers included; also the aggregate number in the House on each Division; distinguishing the Divisions on public business from private; and also the number of Divisions before and after midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.206, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 435

PUBLIC BILLS.—Return ordered, "of the number of Public Bills, distinguishing Government from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1902; showing the number which received the Royal Assent; the number which were passed by this House but not by the House of Lords; the number passed by the House of Lords but not by this House; and distinguishing the stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were dropped or postponed and rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.205, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) ... 436

PUBLIC PETITIONS.—Return ordered, "of the number of Public Petitions presented and printed in Session 1902; with the total number of signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.204, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 436

SELECT COMMITTEES.—Return ordered, "of the number of Select Committees appointed in the Session of 1902, including the Standing Committees and the Court of Referees; the subjects of inquiry, the names of the Members appointed to serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the number of days each Committee met, and the number of days each Member attended; the total expense of the attendance of witnesses at each Select Committee, and the name of the Member who moved for such Select Committee; also the total number of Members who served on Select Committees (in continuation of Parliamentery Paper No. 0.201, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 437

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.—Return ordered, "of the number of days on which the House sat in Session 1902, stating for each day the date of the month and the day of the week, the hour of the meeting, and the hour of adjournment; and the total number of hours occupied in the Sittings of the House, and the average time; and showing the number of hours on which the House sat each day, and the number of hours after midnight; and the number of entries in each day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.203, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) ... 437

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS).—Return ordered, "showing, with reference to Session 1902, (1) the number of Sittings on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at which Government Business had precedence; (2) the number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had precedence; (3) the number of other sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had precedence; (4) the number of Sittings at which Government Business had precedence under a special Order of the House; (5) the number of Saturday Sittings; (6) the total number of Sittings at which Government Business had precedence; (7) the total number of days on which the House sat; (8) the total number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance; and (9) the number of days on which Business of Supply was considered (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 348, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) ... 437

PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS.—Return ordered, "of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the House of Commons and brought from the House of Lords, and of Acts passed in the Session of 1902, classed according to the following subjects: Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Waterworks; Gas; Gas and Water; Lighting and Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, etc. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations or to Lighting and Improvement Schemes); Ports, Piers, Harbours and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Gaols and other County Buildings; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Divorce; Naturalisation; Hospitals, and Miscellaneous."

"Of all the Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which in the session of 1902 have been reported on by Committees on Opposed Private Bills or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, together with the names of the selected Members who served on each Committee; the first and also the last day of the sitting of each Committee; the the number of days on which each Committee sat; the number of days on which each selected Member has served; the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved; and, in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed."

'Of all Private Bills and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the session of 1902, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, together with the names of the members who served on each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; and the number of days on which each Member attended."

"And of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders withdrawn or not proceeded with by the parties, those Bills being specified which have been referred to Committees and dropped during the sittings of the Committee (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.200, of 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 438

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NAVAL CONSTRUCTION.—Question, Mr. James Hope (Sheffield, Brightside); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 439

LIVERPOOL TELEGRAPH STAFF.—Question, Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 440

BELFAST POSTAL DELIVERIES.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 440

BELFAST TELEGRAPH STAFF.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 441

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UGANDA RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland); Answer, Lord Cranborne 444

CIVIL SERVANTS AND PRIVATE TRADING.—Question, Sir Edgar Vincent (Exeter); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 444

SPIDDAL PIER, GALWAY.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 445

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BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 458

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.); Mr. Tully; Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); and Sir Arthur Hayter (Walsall); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 458

Militia and Yeomanry Bill.—Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [10th November], "That the Bill be now read a second time:"—

Question again proposed.

Sir Arthur Hayter (*Walsall*) 459

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Sir Arthur Hayter.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Major Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*)... 463
Mr. Haldane (*Haddingtonshire*) 464

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

The Secretary of State for War (*Mr Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*) ... 466
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Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 471
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*)... 472
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 473
Mr. Beckett (*Yorkshire, W.R., Whitby*) 475
Col. Blundell, (*Lancashire, Ince*) 476
Mr. Griffith Boscawen (*Kent, Tunbridge*) 477
Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 478
Lord Charles Beresford (*Woolwich*) 478
Sir James Fergusson (*Manchester, N.E.*) 479
Mr. Kemp (*Lancashire, Heywood*) 480
Sir Arthur Hayter 480

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 60; Noes, 90. (Division List No. 621.)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Brodrick 481
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 488
Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 492
Mr. Beckett... 494
Captain Norton (*Newington, W.*) 495
Sir Arthur Hayter 496

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 496
Colonel Welby (*Taunton*) 497
Mr. Courtenay Warner 498
Mr. Tully 499
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton*)... 500

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tomorrow.

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Patent Law Amendment Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 500

FISHERIES (IRELAND) [EXPENSES].—Order for Committee thereupon read, and discharged 500

Mail Ships Bill.—Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [1st December], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 500

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tomorrow.

Bankers (Ireland) Act Repeal Bill.—Order for Committee read, and discharged ; Bill withdrawn.

Fisheries (Ireland) Bill.—Order for Committee read, and discharged ; Bill withdrawn.

There being no further business which could, under the terms of the Order of the 16th October, be taken at the Afternoon Sitting, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair until the Evening Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

UGANDA RAILWAY GRANT.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Cranborne, Rochester*) : 501

Motion made and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of a further sum not exceeding £600,000 for the purposes of the Uganda Railway."—(*Lord Cranborne.*)

Mr. Brynmor Jones (*Swansea Districts*) 507

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£600,000,' and insert '£500,000.'"—(*Mr. Brynmor Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That '£600,000' stand part of the Question"

Lord Cranborne 508
Mr. Brynmor Jones 508
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 510
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 513
Mr. Bayley (*Derbyshire, Chesterfield*) 514
Mr. Herbert Samuel (*Yorkshire, Cleveland*) 516
Sir Edward Grey 517
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 518

Lord Cranborne 522
Sir William M'Arthur (Cornwall, St. Austell) 526
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 529
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 531

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 91 ; Noes, 14. (Division List No. 622.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of a further sum not exceeding £600,000, for the purposes of the Uganda Railway."

Resolution to be reported upon Thursday.

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions for amendment of: of Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster, and persons signing (8); read, and ordered to lie on the Table 537

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY.—Scheme dealing with the entry of Naval and Marine Officers and of men of the Royal Navy.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 537

Patent Law Amendment Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 537

Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 537

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.—Read 2ª (according to Order); Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª Tomorrow 537

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—House again in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 7 :—

The Lord Bishop of Manchester 537

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 43, after 'grounds,' to insert 'but so far as such directions have reference to the time table of a school in which religious instruction is given they shall provide that a reasonable time be secured during school hours for religious instruction.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

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Earl Stanhope 539
Earl of Portsmouth 539
The Lord Bishop of Winchester 540
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 541

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 4, after 'managers,' to insert 'but no direction given under this provision shall be such as to interfere with reasonable facilities for religious instruction during school hours.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Davey 541

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 15, to leave out 'except for the teacher's dwelling-house.'"—(*Lord Davey.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 545
Lord Davey 545
Duke of Northumberland 546
Marquess of Northampton... 546
Earl Spencer 546
Earl of Morley 547
Lord Herries 547
Lord Davey 547
Duke of Devonshire 548

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Duke of Northumberland 549

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 16, after 'any,' to insert 'and for the school furniture.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

Duke of Devonshire 550

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Duke of Northumberland 551

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 17, after 'shall,' to omit the words 'out of funds provided by them.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 551

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Lord Archbishop of York 552

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 18, to leave out 'good' and insert structural.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of York.*)

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Lord James of Hereford ... 552
Lord Davey ... 552
Viscount Galway ... 553
Earl of Portsmouth ... 553
Duke of Northumberland ... 554
Earl Spencer ... 554
Lord Bishop of London ... 555
Earl of Shaftesbury ... 555
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh ... 556
Earl Spencer ... 557
Earl of Camperdown ... 557
Duke of Devonshire ... 557
Lord Bishop of Manchester ... 560
Lord Bishop of St. Asaph ... 561

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 20, after 'authority,' to insert 'provided that all damage due to wear and tear shall be made good by the local authority.'" (*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

Earl of Rosebery ... 562

On Question, "That the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 114; Not-Contents, 88.

Earl Beauchamp ... 565

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 20, after 'authority,' to insert 'but no charge shall be made for the teacher's dwelling house where the same is vested in trustees in trust for the purposes of the school.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Lord Davey ... 565
Marquess of Londonderry ... 566
Lord Davey ... 567

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Lord Bishop of Hereford ... 567

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 36, after 'sub-Section (2.)' to insert '(3.) The managers of the school shall provide that: (1.) The school shall open and close daily with religious worship; (2.) Religious instruction, based upon the reading of the Bible, shall form part of the regular instruction of the school for all children whose parents do not object under the Conscience Clause; (3.) The foundation managers may claim that the duly appointed clergyman or minister of the denomination that owns the school buildings shall have free access to the school at reasonable times to superintend or to give religious instruction in accordance with the doctrines of the denomination to those children whose parents belong to it.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Earl of Selborne ... 568

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Hereford 568

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 44, to leave out 'assistant,' and to insert 'all.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Lord Bishop of Ely 569
Duke of Devonshire 569
Earl Spencer 569
Viscount Halifax 570
The Lord Bishop of Winchester 570
Earl of Camperdown 570

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 167; Not-Contents, 27.

Lord Colchester 571

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 44, after the second 'teachers,' to insert 'not belonging to the denomination with which the school is connected;' and in page 5, line 1, to leave out from 'appointed' to the second 'and' in line 2, and to insert 'if thought to be required by the circumstances of the school.'"—(*Lord Colchester.*)

Duke of Devonshire 573

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Halsbury 574

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 7, to leave out 'shall be.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord James of Hereford 574
Viscount Llandaff 575

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe 577

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, after 'with,' insert 'the principles and doctrines of the Church or denomination to which the school belongs, and with.'"—(*The Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe.*)

Duke of Norfolk 581
Earl of Halsbury 584
Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe... 585
Lord Bishop of Salisbury 585

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Earl of Halsbury 586

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Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, to leave out 'the tenour of.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Viscount Halifax 586

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Kinnaird 587

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, after 'deed,' insert 'as existing on 1st January, 1902.'"—(*Lord Kinnaird.*)

Lord Burghclere 587
Earl of Halsbury 587
Earl of Portsmouth 589

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Earl of Shaftesbury 589

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, after the second 'the,' to insert 'foundation.'"—(*The Earl of Shaftesbury.*)

Earl of Halsbury 591
Earl of Shaftesbury 591
Viscount Halifax 591
Duke of Devonshire 592

On Question, "That the word 'foundation' be there inserted," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 28; Not-Contents, 87.

Viscount Halifax 593

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, leave out from 'deed' to the end of the sub-Section and insert 'provided always that in schools belonging to the Church of England any one or more of the foundation managers, if any question arises in regard to the religious instruction given in such school, may appeal to the Bishop of the diocese, whose decision shall be final.'"—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

Earl of Halsbury 599
Lord Bishop of Rochester 600
Lord James of Hereford 602
Lord Bishop of Manchester 605
Lord Robertson 607
Lord Bishop of Norwich 611
Earl Spencer 615
Earl of Halsbury 615

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 157; Not-Contents, 20.

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Earl of Halsbury 617

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, after 'managers,' to insert 'provided that nothing in this sub-Section shall affect any provision in a trust deed for reference to the Bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority so far as such provision gives to the Bishop or authority the power of deciding whether the character of the religious instruction is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.' "—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Earl Spencer 623

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Earl of Feversham 625
Duke of Northumberland 626

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, after 'managers,' insert 'provided always that any persons having under the trust deeds duties in respect of the religious instruction, shall not be prevented from discharging such duties except with the consent of the recognised authorities of the denomination to which the school belongs.' "—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

Lord Bishop of London 627
Duke of Devonshire 629
Lord Bishop of Durham 630
Viscount Goschen 631
Lord Bishop of Winchester 634
Duke of Devonshire 635
Lord Bishop of Ely 635
Lord Bishop of Rochester 635
Lord Bishop of Ripon 638

On Question, "That those words be there inserted," their Lordships divided.—Contents, 65; Not-Contents, 96.

Duke of Norfolk 639

Amendment moved—

"To omit sub-Section 5."—(*The Duke of Norfolk.*)

Earl of Morley 639
Duke of Norfolk 640

On Question, "That sub-Section 5, as amended, stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided.—Contents, 114; Not-Contents, 25.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Duke of Devonshire 641

House resumed; and to be again in Committee Tomorrow.

London Water Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed and to be read 2^a on Friday next.—(*The Lord Balfour.*) [No. 193.]

House adjourned at Ten minutes before One o'clock a.m. till Half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation Bill. Read a second time; to be considered upon Friday 643

PETITIONS.

CANADIAN CATTLE (IMPORTATION).—Petitions for abolition of restrictions: from Penicuik; and Juniper Green; to lie upon the Table 643

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Aberdeen, against; to lie upon the Table 643

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Juniper Green, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 643

LIFEBOAT SERVICE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Petition from Manchester, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 643

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN TRADE.—Petitions for legislation: from Penicuik; and Juniper Green; to lie upon the Table 643

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SPIRITS (ABERDEEN, ELGIN AND INVERNESS).—Returns [presented 9th December]; to be printed. [No. 390] 643

OSBORNE ESTATE.—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by His Majesty to consider the disposition of His Majesty's Osborne Estate in the Isle of Wight [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 643

NAVAL AND MARINE TRAINING.—Copy presented, of scheme dealing with the entry and training of Naval and Marine officers and men of the Royal Navy [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... 644

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2. Closure of Debate (Standing Order No. 25.)—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed. [No. 392.]

3. Divisions of the House.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

4. Public Bills.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

5. Public Petitions.—Return relative thereto [orderd 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

6. Select Committees.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

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7. Sittings of the House.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

8. Business of the House (Days occupied by Government and by Private Members).—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed. [No. 393.]

9. Private Bills and Private Business.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed 644

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

IRISH, SCOTTISH AND ENGLISH POSTMASTERSHIPS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 644

POSTAL CIRCULATION OF LOTTERY CIRCULARS.—Question, Colonel Welby (Taunton); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 645

INDIAN TRADERS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain... 645

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION —BISHOP OF GALWAY'S MSS.—Question, Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher 646

CUSTOMS OFFICERS—PAY AND PROMOTION.—Question, Mr. Heywood Johnstone (Sussex, Horsham); Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher 646

TAME STAG HUNTING WITH HOUNDS.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 647

MULLINGAR PRISON.—Question, Mr. Kennedy (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 647

ARMY-PAID PENSIONER RECRUITERS.—Question, Colonel Welby; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 648

VOLUNTEERS—TRANSPORT SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. Kemp (Lancashire, Heywood); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 648

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Business of the House.—Questions, Mr. Boyce, Colonel Welby, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar), Mr. Carew (Meath, S.), and Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 670

Osborne Estate Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with an Amendment.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 394.]

Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee to be printed. [No. 394.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the whole House for Tomorrow 670

Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms (House of Commons).—Power given to the Select Committee to report their observations.

Second Report brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 395.] 670

Public Petitions Committee.—Eleventh Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table and to be printed 670

Sittings of the House (Exemption from the Standing Order).—

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the London Water Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House):"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

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The House divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 23. (Division List No. 623.)

London Water Bill.—As amended, considered.

Mr. Cremer (*Shoreditch, Haggerston*) 671

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out Clause 1."—(*Mr. Cremer.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of the Clause to the first word 'a,' in line 20, stand part of the Bill."

The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 673
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 676
Mr. Lough (*Islington W.*) 678
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*)... 680
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 682
Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 684
Captain Norton (*Newington, W.*) 686

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 113; Noes, 50. (Division List No. 624.)

Mr. Sydney Buxton 689

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out the words 'a chairman, a vice-chairman, and other,' and insert the words 'sixty-eight.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) 689

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 689

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 21, leave out from 'shall' to 'be' in line 23, Clause 1."

Mr. Whitmore (*Chelsea*) 689

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 21, leave out from 'shall' to 'be' in line 23."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 23 and page 2, line 1, leave out 'by the Local Government Board and afterwards.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Lough 690

Amendment agreed to.

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Mr. Walter Long ... 690

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 1, page 2, leave out '10,' and insert '14.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Mr. Sydney Buxton ... 691
Mr. Cohen (*Islington, E.*) ... 692
Mr. Lough ... 692

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Causton (*Southwark, W.*) ... 692

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 6, to leave out the words 'one by the Council of each of the other metropolitan boroughs.'"—(*Mr. Causton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long ... 693
Mr. Lough ... 694
Lieut.-Colonel Tufnell (*Essex, S.E.*) ... 695

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 111 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 625.)

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 17, leave out 'and.'"

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 18, leave out 'one by the councils of the urban districts of.'"

"Clause 1, page 2, line 35, leave out, 'and.'"

"Clause 1, page 2, line 36, leave out 'one by the councils of the urban districts of.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 39, leave out 'three,' and insert 'one.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Sir F. Dixon-Hartland (*Middlesex, Uxbridge*) ... 697
Mr. Walter Long ... 697

Question, "That the word 'one' stand part of the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Mr. Lough ... 698

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 15, to leave out the words 'as compensation.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

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Mr. Walter Long 700
Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire) 700
Mr. Harry Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) 702

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 139 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 626.)

Mr. Lough 703

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 16, to leave out from the word 'sum,' to the end of line 17."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 704

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 27, at end, to add, 'Any such agreement shall be valid only if and so far as it is confirmed by the court of arbitration constituted by this Act, and that court may confirm the agreement either with or without modifications.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Sydney Buxton 704
Mr. Walter Long 705

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Lough... 705

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 4, to leave out Clause 7."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 706

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney. S.) 707

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 30, to leave out from the word 'section,' to the first word 'the' in line 37."—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 707

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Mr. Sydney Buxton 707

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 9, line 6, to leave out from the word 'for,' to the word 'any,' in line 8."—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 708

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lough 707
Mr. Goulding (*Wiltshire, Devizes*) 708
Mr. Grant Lawson 709

Amendment proposed—

In Clause 11, page 10, line 18, after 'Enfield,' insert 'and to agreements between the Water Board and those Councils.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 11, page 10, line 21, at end, insert 'and to agreements between the Water Board and those Companies.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Lough 709

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 38, at end, to insert the words 'provided that such uniform charges shall not raise the price of water in any district of the Metropolis which now receives a grant under the Equalisation of Rates Act, 1894.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 700

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed.

"In Clause 15, page 13, line 39, leave out sub-Section (7) and insert, '(7) Within three years after the appointed day the Water Board may prepare and publish in the *London Gazette* a scheme enabling their charges for the supply of water to be collected together with any local rate. Any local or rating authorty within the limits of supply may transmit to the Local Government Board their objections to any such scheme within forty days after the scheme is published in the *London Gazette*.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 16, page 14, line 39, leave out 'eighty,' and insert 'one hundred.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Haldane 710

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 16, line 9, to leave out the word 'Twenty,' and insert the word 'Seven.'—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Twenty' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 711
Mr. Sydney Buxton 711
Sir George Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 711
Capt. Jessel (*St. Pancras, S.*) 712
Mr. Whitmore 712

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 39, to leave out the words 'the law of compensation for the purposes of.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 20, line 7, after 'expenses,' insert '(other than costs incurred in any arbitration under this Act.)'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Lough 713

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 5, to leave out Clause 26."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'if at any time by reason of' stand part of the Bill."

Dr. Macnamara 714
Mr. John Burns 714
Mr. Walter Long 714

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Lough 715

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 5, to leave out the words 'the variation of population or.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Page

Mr. John Burns 715

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Herbert Samuel (*Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland*)... 715

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 13, to leave out Clause 33."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 33 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Grant Lawson 716
Mr. Lough 716
Mr. Walter Long 717
Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*)... 717
Col. Bowles (*Middlesex, Enfield*) 718
Mr. Sydney Buxton 718
Mr. Cohen 719

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 627.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 38, at the end to add 'but no day earlier than the 24th day of June, 1904, shall be appointed as respects any Metropolitan Water Company except with the consent of the Water Company and the Water Board.'"—(*Col. Lockwood.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Lough 721
Mr. Walter Long 721

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 32, line 3, after 'salary,' to insert 'compensation or annual allowance.'"—(*Mr. Stuart Wortley.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 32, line 8, leave out 'pension,' and insert 'compensation or annual allowance.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Lough 722

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 32, line 32, to leave out Clause 48."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question put, "That the words of Clause 48 stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 98; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 628.)

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Mr. Sydney Buxton 723

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Schedule 3, page 35, line 2, to leave out all the words after the word 'Board.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 5, at end, to insert the words '2. If a person appointed to be a member of the Water Board is a member of the Council or one of the Councils by whom he is appointed, he shall, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that Council, at the end of that period cease to be a member of the Water Board.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

It being half-past Seven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned until this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

London Water Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [this day] to the Bill, on consideration, as amended.

Which Amendment was—

"In page 35, line 5, at end, to insert the words '2. If a person appointed to be a member of the Water Board is a member of the Council, or one of the Councils by whom he is appointed, he shall, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that Council, at the end of that period cease to be a member of the Water Board.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Dr. Macnamara 725

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment of the Bill—

"In line 1, to leave out the word 'if.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'if' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 726
Mr. John Burns 727

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Dr. Macnamara 730

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 5, at end, to insert the words '2. A person appointed to be a member of the Water Board shall be a member of a

constituent authority, and shall, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that authority, at the end of that period cease to be a member of the Water Board.' "—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Sydney Buxton 730
Captain Jessel 731
Mr. Walter Long 731
Mr. Causton 732
Mr. Lough 732
Mr. John Burns 732

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 52; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 629.)

Mr. Lough 733

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 22, to leave out sub-Section (*c*)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 734

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 24, at end, to insert the words, 'A director of a Metropolitan Water Company shall, until the compensation payable to the company is determined, be disqualified for being appointed or being a member of the Water Board.' "—(*Mr. Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill.."

Mr. Lough 735

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"After the word 'director,' to insert the words 'or shareholder.' "—(*Mr. Lough*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Sir Charles Dilke 735
Sir J. Blundell Maple (*Camberwell, Dulwich*) 735
Mr. Cremer 736
Col. Bowles 736

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 33; Noes, 87. (Division List No. 630.)

Words inserted.

Amendments proposed—

“Schedule 3, page 35, line 25, leave out ‘of the members,’ and insert ‘the member.’

“Schedule 3, page 35, line 26, leave out ‘one.’

“Schedule 3, page 35, line 29, at end, add as a new paragraph—‘4. The members of the Water Board appointed by the Conservators of the River Thames and the Lea Conservancy Board shall not vote or act in respect of any question arising before the Water Board as regards the transfer of any undertaking to the Water Board under this Act.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 4, leave out ‘and.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 4 after ‘Penge,” insert ‘Bexley, Dartford, Erith, and Footscray.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 4, leave out ‘twelve,’ and insert ‘twenty.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 6, leave out from ‘Bromley’ to end of line 13, and insert ‘three by each of the councils of the urban districts of Erith and Penge, two by each of the councils of the urban districts of Bexley and Dartford, and one by each of the councils of the urban districts of Chislehurst and Footscray.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 39, leave out ‘and.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 39, after ‘Surbiton,’ insert ‘Barnes, the Maldens and Coombe, and Wimbledon.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 39, leave out ‘sixteen,’ and insert ‘thirty-three.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 40, leave out ‘six,’ and insert ‘seven.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 40, leave out ‘two,’ and insert ‘ten.’

“Schedule 3, page 36, line 41, leave out from the second ‘of,’ to the end of line 3, page 37, and insert ‘Wimbledon, four by each of the councils of the urban districts of Barnes and Surbiton, three by the council of the urban districts of Esher and the Dittons, two by each of the councils of the urban districts of East and West Molesey and the Maldens and Coombe, and one by the council of the urban district of Ham.’

“Schedule 3, page 37, line 6, after the second ‘the,’ insert ‘constitution.’ ”

Amendments agreed to.

Captain Norton 739

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

“In page 37, line 9, to leave out the words ‘vice-chairmen or,’ and insert the words ‘and vice-chairmen shall be one year, and of.’ ”—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed—“That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. Walter Long 741

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Lough 742

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 10, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'five.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 743

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 21, to leave out the words 'the chairman or vice-chairman, or'; in line 22, to leave out from the word 'Board' to the word 'member' in line 24; and to add at the end of line 26 the words 'and shall also, if he is the chairman or vice-chairman, vacate his office as chairman or vice-chairman.'"—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Sir Charles Dilke 743
Mr. Harry Samuel 745
Mr. Sydney Buxton 747
Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) 751
Mr. Lough 753
Mr. Whitmore 757
Mr. John Burns 760
Mr. Walter Long 762

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 28. (Division List No. 631.)

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Mail Ships Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty Minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Industrial Accidents.—Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the present system of reporting industrial accidents 769

National Education (Ireland).—Appendix (Section 1) to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1901 769

North Sea Fishery Investigations.—Reports of the British delegates attending the International Conferences held at Stockholm, Christiana, and Copenhagen, with respect to fishery and hydrographical investigations in the North Sea, and correspondence relating thereto... 769

Ichthyological Research.—Report of the Committee appointed to inquire and report as to the best means by which the State or local authorities can assist scientific research as applied to problems affecting the fisheries of Great Britain and Ireland; together with Minutes of evidence, appendix, and index.
Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 769

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894–96.—Six orders relating to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamships "Kansas," "Irishman," "Victorian," "Cambrian," "Californian," and "Sylvania"; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 769

House of Lords Offices.—Third Report from the Select Committee made, to be printed, and to be considered on Monday next. (No. 194.) 769

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 769

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—House again in Committee (according to Order.)

Lord Burghclere 770

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7 to insert the following new Clause: '(1) The managers of a public elementary school not provided by the local education authority, and in the case of schools provided by that authority the local education authority shall permit the use of any room in the school on such occasions as do not interfere with the educational purposes of the school, for the purpose of the support of any candidate at a Parliamentary, municipal, or local election, subject to regulations made by the local education authority. (2) The local education authority shall, as soon as possible, make regulations for the purpose of this section, and the regulations shall be binding on managers and on persons obtaining the use of the school."—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

Earl Nelson 772
The President of the Board of Education (*The Marquess of Londonderry*) 773
Earl of Portsmouth 774
Earl Spencer 775
Earl of Feversham 776
Marquess of Londonderry 777
Lord Burghclere 778

On Question, objected to. Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 23; Not-Contents, 77.

Duke of Northumberland 779

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7, to insert the following new Clause, 'The managers of any school not provided by the local education authority may at any time, with the consent of the owners of the school-house, and notwithstanding any provisions of the trust deed, agree with the local education authority to let the school-house on rent to that authority during such hours and with such reservations as to the giving of religious instruction as may be agreed upon, and thereupon and so long as such agreement shall last the school shall be conducted in accordance with such agreement, but otherwise be managed and controlled as a school provided by the local education authority.'"—*Duke of Northumberland.*)

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The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 780
Lord Stanmore 781
Duke of Northumberland 781
Viscount Halifax 782
The Duke of Devonshire 783

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

The Earl of Lytton... 783

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7, to insert the following new Clause, 'The managers of all public elementary schools, whether provided by the local education authority or not, may, at the request of parents of children attending such schools, permit religious instruction to be given to such children according to the tenets and faith of their parents, in the school buildings, at hours other than those assigned for secular instruction without making any charge for the use of such buildings, provided that the instruction be under the direction and management of a responsible person or a responsible authority duly accredited on behalf of the religious community to which the parents concerned belong, and provided that such person or authority, or the accrediting body, shall undertake to defray any necessary cost of such religious instruction, and, if required, extra remuneration of the caretaker of the school buildings, and to make good any damage that may occur.' "—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

Viscount Halifax 787
The Lord Bishop of Rochester 788
Marquess of Londonderry 791
Viscount Halifax 793
Lord Bishop of Rochester 794
Lord Reay 795
Lord Bishop of Winchester... 796
Earl of Rosebery 797
Lord Bishop of Salisbury 798
Earl Spencer 798
Duke of Devonshire... 799

On Question, objected to. Their Lordships divided :—Contents, 68 ; Not-Contents, 74.

Clause 8 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 19, leave out 'and' and insert 'or.' "—(*The Lord President.*)

Agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 20, leave out 'and' and insert 'or.' "—(*The Lord President.*)

Agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Hereford 805

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Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 30, after 'school,' insert 'not provided by the local education authority.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Earl of Northbrook... 805
Lord Ribblesdale 806

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Lord Reay 806

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9 :—

Earl of Camperdown 808

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 33, leave out from the beginning of the Clause to the first 'in' in line 35, and insert—'A local education authority may inquire as to the necessity of any school already recognised as a public elementary school, and may, with the consent of the managers, declare any such school to be unnecessary. In the event of the managers dissenting, the local education authority may appeal to the Board of Education, who shall, without unnecessary delay, determine the dispute, and who; line 38, leave out from 'rates' to the end of clause."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Duke of Devonshire 812
Earl of Camperdown 813
Marquess of Londonderry 815
Lord Reay 815
Lord Burghclere 815
Lord Herries 816
Earl of Northbrook 816
Lord Bishop of Rochester 818
Lord Tweedmouth 818
Viscount Halifax 818
Viscount Llandaff 818
Lord Bishop of Ely 819
Earl of Rosebery 819
Duke of Devonshire 820

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 108; Not-Contents, 22.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 29, leave out the second 'the' and insert 'a.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Agreed to.

Lord Kinnaird 821

Amendment moved—

"In page 7, line 7, after sub-Section (2) insert as a new sub-Section: '(3) Any future manager shall be chosen from a list prepared by the Trustees and advertised in the usual public place in the district, any ratepayer shall be eligible to have his name inserted on this list, prepared by the Trustees having been duly proposed and seconded after due notice given.' "—(*Lord Kinnaird.*)

Duke of Devonshire 822

Amendment negatived.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Lord Herries 822
Marquess of Londonderry 823

Amendment negatived.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13 :—

Earl of Camperdown 824

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 7, after 'provided,' insert 'provided always that if, in the opinion of the local authority, the consent of the managers of one or more of such schools be withheld unreasonably, the local authority may appeal to the Board of Education, who, after due inquiry, shall determine the dispute."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Duke of Devonshire 824

Amendment negatived.

The Lord Bishop of Manchester 825

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 14 after 'education' insert 'and the body of managers of any grouped schools may receive and dispose of the pecuniary resources of any schools within the group."—(*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

Earl Nelson 827
Lord Bishop of Manchester... 827
Earl Stanhope 828
The Lord Bishop of Winchester 828
The Lord Bishop of Manchester 829
The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 830

Amendment withdrawn.

Clause 13 agreed to.

Clause 14 :—

The Earl of Northbrook 830

Amendment moved—

"In page 9, line 7, after 'parish,' insert 'Provided that the local education authority may apply to the Board of Education for a scheme for the appropriation of any such money to educational purposes, and if a scheme shall be made such money shall be appropriated in accordance therewith.'"—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

Lord Burghclere 831
Earl Nelson 832
Duke of Devonshire 832
Earl Spencer 833

Amendment negatived.

Lord Bishop of Hereford 833

Amendment moved—

To leave out Clause 14, and to insert the following new Clause instead thereof:—

"All educational endowments, which before the passing of this Act were being used for the purposes of elementary education, shall be reserved for the benefit of meritorious children in the parish or district, and shall be dealt with by scheme to be drawn up by the Board of Education in consultation with the local education authority and laid before Parliament in the usual way."—*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Lord Bishop of Southwell 838
Lord Ribblesdale 839
Earl of Halsbury 840
Lord Colchester 841
Earl Spencer 842

On Question "That Clause 14 stand part of the Bill," resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 15:—

The Lord Bishop of Hereford 843

Amendment moved—

"In page 9, line 11, to leave out from 'pay' to the end of the Clause, and insert 'all such fees to the local education authority in aid of the rate levied for the purposes of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Lord Bishop of Manchester 843

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16:—

Amendment made—

"In page 9, line 21, after 'managers' to insert 'or as to control by the Local education authority."—(*The Lord President.*)

Earl Carrington ... 845

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 16."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Earl Spencer ... 846
The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) ... 847
Earl Nelson ... 847
Duke of Devonshire ... 847

Amendment negatived.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Their Lordships adjourned at Eight of the Clock and resumed at Nine.

Clause 18 :—

Lord Coleridge ... 848

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 13, to leave out from 'Council' to the end of the paragraph."—(*The Lord Coleridge.*)

Earl of Northbrook ... 850
Duke of Northumberland ... 851
Earl Spencer ... 853
Marquess of Londonderry ... 855
Lord Tweedmouth ... 856
Lord Harris ... 858
Duke of Devonshire ... 858

On Question, "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 75; Not-Contents, 20.

Lord Ribblesdale ... 861

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 16, to leave out 'nomination,' and insert 'recommendation.'"—(*The Lord Ribblesdale.*)

Duke of Devonshire ... 863
Earl Spencer ... 864
Duke of Devonshire ... 865
Earl of Northbrook ... 866
Marquess of Londonderry ... 867

On Question, "That the word 'nomination' stand part of the Clause," resolved in the affirmative.

Viscount Llandaff ... 869

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 16, after 'nomination,' to insert 'of associations of voluntary schools within their area, approved by the Board of Education, and comprising a class of schools which would not otherwise obtain representation on the committee, &c.'"

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Lord Redesdale 872
Duke of Devonshire 872

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment made—

"In page 10, line 17, after the word 'bodies,' be inserted the words 'including associations of voluntary schools.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Lord Coleridge 873

Amendment moved—

"Page 10, line 25, after 'committee, to insert as a new paragraph :—'(*c*) for the periodic retirement of members of the committee, so that no member of the committee shall be appointed for a longer period than three years, but so that every member on retirement shall be eligible for re-appointment.'"—(*The Lord Coleridge.*)

Duke of Devonshire 874

Amendment negatived.

Earl of Camperdown 874

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 31, to leave out 'school or.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Bishop of Hereford 875
Duke of Devonshire... 875
Earl Spencer 875

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment made—

"In page 10, line 32, by adding after the word 'Council,' the words 'otherwise than under Part III. of this Act.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Earl of Northbrook... 876

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 32, after 'council,' to insert 'Provided that no such person shall vote on any question relating to the salary or conditions of employment of any member of the teaching staff of any such school or college.'"—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

Duke of Devonshire... 876

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19 :—

Earl of Camperdown 876

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 3, to leave out from 'charge' to 'any' in line 5."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Duke of Devonshire ... 877
Earl of Camperdown ... 878
Duke of Northumberland ... 879
Marquess of Londonderry ... 880

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 6, after 'expenditure,' to insert 'or rent.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

Earl Spencer ... 881
Duke of Devonshire ... 881
Lord Tweedmouth ... 881
Earl of Halsbury ... 881
Lord Tweedmouth ... 882
Duke of Devonshire ... 883

On Question, "That the word 'rent' be there inserted," resolved in the affirmative.

Earl of Camperdown ... 883

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 11, to leave out 'not being less than one-half, or more than three-fourths.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Marquess of Londonderry ... 884
Earl Beauchamp ... 884
Duke of Devonshire ... 885

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendments moved—

"In page 12, line 13, after 'loans,' to insert 'or rent'; in line 28, after 'apply,' to insert 'in lieu of the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, relating to accounts and audit'; in lines 36 and 37 to leave out 'committee or managers,' and insert 'education committee established under this Act, or to the managers of any public elementary school'; in line 38, after 'authority,' to insert 'but the auditor of those accounts shall have the same powers with respect to managers as he would have if the managers were officers of the local education authority.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20:—

Duke of Devonshire ... 885

Amendment moved—

"In page 13, line 6, to leave out sub-Section (2).

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Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21 :—

Lord Bishop of Southwell 886

Amendment moved—

"In page 13, line 17, to leave out 'or parishes.'"

The Duke of Devonshire 886

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23 :—

Lord Bishop of Hereford 886

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 13, to leave out 'instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic,' and insert 'elementary instruction.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Duke of Devonshire 887

Amendment withdrawn.

Duke of Northumberland 887

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 26, after 'not,' to insert "speak or.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

Earl Spencer 887
Duke of Devonshire 888
Duke of Northumberland 889
Lord Tweedmouth 889
Marquess of Londonderry... 889

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Moved to add the following new sub-Sections—

"Sub-Sections 1 and 5 of Section 87 of the Local Government Act, 1888 (which relate to local enquiries), shall apply with respect to any order, consent, sanction, or approval which the Local Government Board are authorised to make or give under this Act.

"The amount which would be produced by any rate in the pound shall be estimated for the purposes of this Act in accordance with the regulations made by the Local Government Board.

"Teachers in a school maintained, but not provided by the local education authority shall be in the same position as respects disqualification for office as members of the authority as teachers in a school provided by the authority."

Amendment agreed to.

The Duke of Northumberland 890

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 33, to leave out 'census of 1901,' and insert 'last published census.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

Duke of Devonshire 890
Duke of Northumberland 890

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24 agreed to.

First Schedule :—

Earl of Lytton 891

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 25, after 'fit,' insert 'And may, subject as aforesaid, delegate to any such sub-committee any powers or duties which may have been delegated to the committee by the Council. Every such sub-committee shall report its proceedings to the committee by which it was appointed, but to the extent to which the committee shall, subject as aforesaid, so direct the acts and proceedings of the sub-committee shall not be required to be submitted for approval to the committee or to the Council.'"—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Duke of Northumberland 891

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 10, to leave out 'three' and insert 'six.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

Duke of Devonshire 892
Lord Wenlock 892
Lord Reay 892
Duke of Northumberland 892

On Question, Amendment negatived.

First Schedule agreed to.

Second Schedule :—

Drafting Amendments made.

Amendments made—

"In page 20, line 36, after 'day,' to insert as a new paragraph, '(15.) During the period between the passing of this Act and the appointed day, the managers of any public elementary school, whether provided by a School Board or not, and any school attendance committee, shall furnish to the Council, which will on the appointed day become the local education authority, such information as that Council may reasonably require.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

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Lord Kinnaird 892

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 16, after 'officers,' to insert 'or teachers.'"—(*The Lord Kinnaird.*)

Lord Bishop of Rochester 893
Duke of Northumberland 894
Lord Bishop of Chichester 895
Duke of Devonshire 895

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 21, after 'officer,' to insert 'or teachers.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Second Schedule agreed to.

Third Schedule:—

Lord Bishop of Lichfield 896

Amendment moved—

"In page 22, line 13, after 'payable,' insert '(3.) The consent of the trustees of a school shall be required to any arrangement made under Section 23 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Lichfield.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 897

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendments made.

Third Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Fourth Schedule amended and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Report of the Amendments to be received on Saturday next; the Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 195.)

London Water Bill.—Referred to the Examiners 898

Mail Ships Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2aª to-morrow.—(*The Earl of Selborne.*) (No. 196.) 898

House adjourned at a quarter-past Twelve o'clock a.m. till half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means ... 898

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PETITIONS.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BILLS IN PARLIAMENT) BILL.—Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 898

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from St. Ives, in favour; to lie upon the Table 898

SOMALILAND EXPEDITION.—Petition from Manchester, for inquiry; to lie upon the Table 898

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Appendix, Section 1, to the Sixty-eighth Report of the Commissioners, being for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 898

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.—Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the present system of reporting Industrial Accidents [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 899

FISHERIES (ICHTHYOLOGICAL RESEARCH).—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed to inquire and report as to the best means by which the State or Local Authorities can assist Scientific Research as applied to problems affecting the Fisheries of Great Britain and Ireland, together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 899

FISHERIES (NORTH SEA FISHERY INVESTIGATION).—Copy presented, of Reports of the British Delegates attending the International Conferences held at Stockholm, Christiana, and Copenhagen, with respect to Fishery and Hydrographical Investigations in the North Sea, and Correspondence relating thereto [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 899

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

ISLAND OF LEWIS—SKIGERSTA PIER.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 899

INDIA—FATALITIES IN USE OF PLAGUE SERUM.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton... 900

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS AS AFFECTED BY CURRENCY RATES.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 900

INDIAN IRRIGATION, COMMISSION'S REPORT.—Question, Mr. Wylie (Dumbartonshire); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 901

INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS—COMMUNICATION ON PASSENGER TRAINS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 901

KHAIRPUR CURRENCY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 901

KHAIRPUR—GOVERNMENT SALES OF SALT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton... 902

CABLE RATE TO WEST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 902

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AUSTRALIAN MAILS.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 903

ARMAGH POSTMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 904

LONDON CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE STAFF.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 904

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—POSTAL SERVICE VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 905

POST OFFICE SORTING CLERKS, SORTERS AND TELEGRAPHISTS—PAY, &C.—Question, Mr. Jacoby (Derbyshire, Mid); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 906

SOUTH AFRICA—VETERINARY EXAMINATION OF CATTLE GIVEN TO REPATRIATED BOERS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 906

CLOSE AND PATENT ROLLS—ERRORS IN WELSH SPELLING.—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey); Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher 906

UXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL—LOCAL LOANS.—Question, Sir Frederick Dixon Hartland (Middlesex, Uxbridge); Answer, Mr. Walter Long ... 907

UGANDA—GOVERNMENT CONCESSION.—Questions, Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answers, Lord Cranborne... 907

CRIMINAL LAW—COMPENSATION TO ACQUITTED PERSONS—CASE OF MR. R. M. NEWTON.—Questions, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.), and Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answers, Sir Robert Finlay 908

SHANDANGAN PETTY SESSIONS—CRYNCH V. HOWARD.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 909

SCARVA (DOWN) POLICE BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 909

ROYAL ARTILLERY — PROMOTIONS OF LIEUTENANT-COLONELS. — Question, Colonel Long (Worcestershire, Evesham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 910

MILITIA CANDIDATES FOR THE LINE—COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.—Question, Mr. Llewellyn (Somersetshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick... 910

MOUNTED INFANTRY.—Question, Mr. John Howard (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 910

MILITIA OFFICERS' OUTFIT ALLOWANCE.—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 911

RESERVE OFFICERS' PROMOTION.—Questions, Dr. Shipman (Northampton); Answers, Mr. Brodrick... 911

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

TRAINING SHIPS—ROMAN CATHOLIC SEAMEN FROM THE "ARETHUSA" AND "CHICHESTER."—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 912

RUSSIAN CONCESSIONS AT TIENTSIN.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 912

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SOUTH AFRICA—RECRUITING OF NATIVE LABOUR FROM CENTRAL AFRICA AND UGANDA.—Question, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, Lord Cranborne 913

BRITISH CEMETERIES IN THE IONIAN STATES.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Lord Cranborne 913

VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION.—Question, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs); Answer, Lord Cranborne 914

TUNBRIDGE WELLS TELEPHONES.—Question, Mr. Griffith Boscawen (Kent, Tunbridge); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 915

PARCELS POST TO BRAZIL.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 917

RATES ON LONDON WATER COMPANIES' RESERVOIRS.—Question, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland (Middlesex, Uxbridge); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 917

FREE ROD FISHING ON THE ORKNEY FORESHORES.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hayes Fisher, Fulham)... 918

GOVERNMENT RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)... 918

LONGFORD ROYAL CANALS.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 919

CLONMEL MAGISTRACY AND POLICE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 919

CONVICT LYNCHEHANN'S ESCAPE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 919

ARDAGH CATHEDRAL.—Question, Mr. Tully: Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher ... 920

HILL STREET (ROSCOMMON) SUB-POSTMASTER.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 921

EXAMINATION FOR WOMEN CLERKS IN THE DUBLIN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Tully: Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 921

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION—PERSONAL EXPLANATION (MR. A. J. BALFOUR)—

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 921

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 922

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to, Expiring Laws Continuance Bill; Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland) Bill, without Amendment.

UGANDA RAILWAY [GRANT]—(REPORT).—Resolution reported—"That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of a further sum not exceeding £600,000 for the purposes of the Uganda Railway."

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Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 923
Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District) 928
Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) 932
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 934
Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland) 937
The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 944
The Master of Elibank (Edinburgh, Midlothian) 950
Mr. Joseph A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden) 951
Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 952

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in upon the said Resolution by Lord Cranborne, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Deputy Chairman.

Uganda Railway Bill.—"To provide further money for the Uganda Railway." Presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time Tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 308.]

Militia and Yeomanry Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Jeffreys (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Sir Arthur Hayter (Walsall) 959

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after 'form,' to insert 'a.'"—(*Sir Arthur Hayter.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'a' be there inserted."

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guilford) ... 959
Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) 959
Colonel Sandys (Lancashire, Bootle) 960

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Courtenay Warner 960

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out the words 'reserve divisions,' and insert the word 'reserves.'"—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Brodrick 960
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 962
Colonel Blundell (Lancashire, Ince) 962

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 107 ; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 632.)

Sir Arthur Hayter 963

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the word 'regulations' and insert the words 'by Order in Council.'"—(*Sir Arthur Hayter.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'regulations' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Caldwell 963
Mr. Brodrick 963

Mr. Courtenay Warner 964

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Pirie (*Aberdeen, N.*) 965

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words 'any enactment relating to the training of Militia and Yeomanry,' in order to insert the words 'the enactments specified in the schedule of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Pirie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Brodrick 965

Mr. Pirie's Amendment was, by leave, withdrawn, and the words suggested by Mr. Caldwell were inserted.

Mr. Pirie 966

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words from the word 'and,' to the end of the Clause."—(*Mr. Pirie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'any man in' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Brodrick 967
Mr. Fuller (*Wiltshire, Westbury*) 967
Col. Sandys 967
Mr. Courtenay Warner 968
Col. Legge (*St. George's, Hanover Square*)... 969
Mr. Pirie 969
Mr. Brodrick 970

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 110 ; Noes, 41. (Division List, No. 633.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after 'Militiamen,' to insert 'or Yeomen.'"—(*Major Rasch.*)

Amendment agreed to.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after 'arm,' to insert '(2) All regulations made in pursuance of this section shall be laid before Parliament as soon as practicable after they are made if Parliament be then sitting, and, if Parliament be not sitting, as soon as practicable after the beginning of the next Session of Parliament.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out sub-Section (3)."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered Tomorrow.

Osborne Estate (Re-Committed) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 972

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 24, after 'shall," to insert 'during His Majesty's life.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon.*)... 974

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Caldwell 975

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 19, after 'Majesty' to insert 'as also the grounds under their management.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Solicitor General (*Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University*) 975
Mr. Caldwell 976

Amendment negatived.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time Tomorrow.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.—Resolved, "That the Statement of the estimated expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1902–3 be approved."—(*Mr. Pretyman.*) 976

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2ª (The Lord Balfour), and reported from the Committee; and to be read 3ª on Monday next. (No. 200.)

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—
London Water.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 977

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

VENEZUELA, NO. 1 (1902).—Correspondence respecting the affairs of Venezuela. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 977

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª tomorrow.—(*The Lord Ashbourne.*) (No. 197). 977

Militia and Yeomanry Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Monday next.—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*) (No. 198.) 977

Osborne Estate Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª tomorrow.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*) (No. 199.) 977

Mail Ships Bill.—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow 978

CASE OF ALBERT TUCKER, MILITIA VOLUNTEERS.

Lord Monkswell 978
The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) ... 980

London Water Bill.—[Second Reading.]—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2a.—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Lord Tweedmouth 982

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert 'this day four weeks.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

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Lord Balfour of Burleigh 992
Earl Carrington 1003
Viscount Llandaff 1007
Lord Avebury 1011
Lord Monkswell 1012
Viscount Hampden... 1019
Earl Russell 1019

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Motion."

The House divided:—Contents, 51; Not-Contents, 18.

Bill read 2ª accordingly and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

YEOMANRY REGULATIONS.

Earl of Hardwicke 1023

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Eight o'clock, till Tomorrow, Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation Bill.—Considered, read the third time, and passed 1024

PETITIONS.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Old Machar, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1024

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Copies presented of six Orders relating to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamships "Kansas," "Irishman," "Victorian," "Cambrian," "Californian," and "Sylvania," [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1024

VENEZUELA (NO. 1, 1902.)—Copy presented of Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Venezuela [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1024

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

EDUCATION BILL—POSITION OF CENTRAL WELSH BOARD.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Sir William Anson... 1025

EDUCATION BILL—CLAUSE 18 (8)—WELSH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Sir William Anson 1025

NAVY—PRACTICE AMMUNITION.—Question, Mr. Yerburgh (Chester); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1025

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1026

AXHOLME LIGHT RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1026

IMPORTS OF RUSSIAN SUGAR FROM NON-RUSSIAN PORTS.—Question, Mr. M'Kenna (Monmouthshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1027

SUGAR EXPORTS FROM BRITISH GUIANA.—Question, Mr. M'Kenna; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1027

ALASKA BOUNDARY DISPUTE.—Question, Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1027

LATE INSPECTOR GARDINER, ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY — WIDOW'S ALLOWANCE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1028

BELFAST RE-VALUATION.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1028

SOUTH AFRICA—FIELD FORCE CANTEEN.—Question, Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1028

BELFAST BARRACKS—BREAD CONTRACT.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1028

FLEETWOOD (NORWICH) CANTEEN.—Question, Captain Clive (Herefordshire, Ross); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1029

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY — OFFICERS' CHARGERS. — Question, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick... 1029

DEPUTY MASTER OF THE MINT.—Question, Sir John Leng; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1030

POINT OF PRACTICE—RIGHT TO RAISE URGENT QUESTIONS ON MOTION FOR WEEK-END ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House, at the rising of the House this day, do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

Questions, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) and Mr. John Burns (Battersea); Ruling, Mr. Speaker 1030

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill.—As amended, was considered.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1032

New Clause (Amendment of law relating to acceptance of tenders)—(*Mr. Wyndham*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 1032
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)... 1033
The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) ... 1034

Question put, and agreed to.

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Clause read a second time, and added to the Bill.

Mr. Wyndham 1034

New Clause (Regulations as to Audit)—(*Mr. Wyndham*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1034
Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 1034
Mr. Caldwell 1035
Mr. Wyndham 1035

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time.

Question proposed, "That the Clause be added to the Bill."

Mr. Caldwell 1036
Mr. O'Doherty (*Donegal, N.*) 1037

Question put and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. Wyndham 1037

New Clause (Amendment of 61 and 62 Vict., c. 37, s. 58, as respects payments out of Local Taxation Account on behalf of unions and rural districts—(*Mr. Wyndham*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

Mr. Lough 1039
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 1040

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time and added to the Bill.

Mr. Tully 1040

New Clause (Disqualification of ministers of religion)— *Mr. Tully*—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

Mr. T. M. Healy 1042
Sir John Colomb (*Gt. Yarmouth*) 1042
Mr. Wyndham 1042

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Tully—

New Clause (Admission of the Press)—*Mr. Tully*—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added to the Bill.

Clause ruled out of Order.

New Clause (Amendment of 61 and 62 Vic., c. 37, s. 43 (3), as to Order constituting an urban district—(*Mr. Carew*)—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added to the Bill.

New Clause (Extension of 1 Edw. VII., c. 28, s. 3)—(*Mr. Carew*)—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added to the Bill.

Mr. Wyndham 1044

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 18, at end, add 'or where any such debt, claim or demand was incurred or became due at any time between the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and one, the aforesaid time may be extended by the Local Government Board to the first day of April next after the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. T. M. Healy 1044
Mr. Wyndham 1045

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, after 'practitioner,' insert 'or trained nurse.'" —(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendments in the Clause necessitated by the introduction of the words "or a trained nurse" were also agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'vacation,' to insert the words 'or as a Crown witness at either assizes or sessions.'"—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1045

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1045

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 28, after the word 'loan,' to insert the the words 'for the payment of any debt or the discharge of any obligation existing at the time when such loan was contracted.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Atkinson 1046
Mr. T. M. Healy 1046

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Amendment withdrawn.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1047

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 38, to leave out Clause 6."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1049

Question put and negatived.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1051

Bill re-committed in respect of Clauses 8 and 13, and in respect of a new Clause (Increase of contribution to county infirmaries).—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) in the Chair.]

Clause 8:—

Mr. T. M. Healy 1052
M. Wyndham 1053

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 18, at end, to add 'or any existing officer within the meaning of the Act of 1898.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Question, "That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Clause 13:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 37, after '1900,' to insert 'The Employers Liability Act, 1880, and at Common Law.'"—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)

Amendment agreed to.

New Clause:—

"In addition to the annual amount which may be contributed by the County Council or the Council of a County Borough to any county infirmary or fever hospital under sub-Section 9 of Section 15 of the principal Act, any County Council or Council of a County Borough may, if they think fit, contribute in any year the whole or any part of such further amount as may be certified by an auditor of the Local Government Board to be necessary to meet any deficiency in the funds of such infirmary or hospital during that year."—(*Dr. Thompson.*)

Mr. O'Doherty 1054

New Clause read a first and second time and added to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, in Committee, and on Re-committal, considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Caldwell 1055
Mr. T. M. Healy 1056

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Uganda Railway Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 1057

Militia and Yeomanry Bill.—As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed 1057

Osborne Estate Bill.—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Caldwell 1058

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Two o'clock, till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: SATURDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against: of the United Presbytery of Auchterarder —— and the Scottish Women's Protestant Union —— Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1061

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Return showing for the year ended 31st August, 1902—
1. The number of public elementary day schools and higher elementary schools which charge fees.
2. The number of free scholars in those schools.
3. The number of scholars paying fees in those schools.
4. The school fees charged. 1061

TRADE REPORTS.—
I. Annual Series—
No. 2921. Persia (Khorassan and Sistan).
II. Miscellaneous Series—
No. 586. United States (St. Joseph, Missouri).
Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1061

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Education (England and Wales) Bill.—As amended, considered.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 8, after 'and,' to insert 'to.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The President of the Board of Education (*The Marquess of Londonderry*) 1061

Amendment moved—

"In lines 28, 29, to leave out 'local education authority,' and insert 'council.'"—(*The Marquess of Londonderry.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 27, to leave out 'or used.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

'In Clause 5, page 3, line 6, after 'shall,' to insert 'also."—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 18, after 'them,' insert 'a body of managers consisting of.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Lord Reay 1062
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 1062

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 24, to leave out 'representing local authorities.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 25, to leave out 'also as provided by this Act,' and insert: '(*a*) where the local education authority are the Council of a county, one by that Council and one by the minor local authority; and (*b*) where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Lord Reay 1063
Duke of Devonshire 1063

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Duke of Northumberland 1063

The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury) 1063
Lord Bishop of Manchester... 1064

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 31, after 'to,' insert 'fair.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Rochester 1064

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 31, after 'tear,' to insert 'in the use of any room in the schoolhouse for the purpose of a public elementary day school.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Rochester.*)

The Lord Bishop of Manchester 1064
Marquess of Londonderry 1065

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 42, after 'school,' insert 'house.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Earl Beauchamp 1065

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe 1065

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 27, to leave out from 'that' to the end of the sub-Section, and insert 'where the trust deed requires that religious instruction shall be given in accordance with the principles or doctrines of any church or denomination, in case any difference should arise as to the character of such religious instruction, an appeal may be made to the Bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority of such church or denomination, whose decision shall be final."—(*The Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe.*)

Earl Spencer 1066
Earl of Halsbury 1067
The Lord Bishop of Winchester 1068
Viscount Halifax 1068
Lord James of Hereford 1070
Lord Bishop of Rochester 1071

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"Page 6, line 14, after 'section,' to insert as a new Sub-section, 'Any transfer of a public elementary school to or from a local education authority shall for the purposes of this Section be treated as the provision of a new school.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

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Lord Burghclere 1072
Duke of Devonshire 1073

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 12."—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Earl Beauchamp 1074

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 16, page 10, insert 'Part IV. (General).'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Duke of Devonshire 1074

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 12, after 'accommodation,' to insert 'within the meaning of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.'" — (*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Earl Beauchamp 1075

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 36, after sub-Section (2) to insert the following new sub-Sections: '(3) A local education authority shall provide such officers, servants, buildings, furniture and other things as are necessary for the execution of the duties of any education committee established by them, and shall pay the expenses of executing those duties. (4) Any officer appointed in that by the Board of Education may attend any meeting of an education committee, and take part in the proceedings, but shall not have a right to vote.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Duke of Devonshire 1076
Lord Burghclere 1076

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 39, to leave out 'who shall also,' and insert 'and the persons so appointed shall.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Viscount Llandaff 1077

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 1, after 'nomination,' to insert 'of associations of voluntary schools approved for that purpose by the Board of Education, and."—(*Viscount Llandaff.*)

Duke of Devonshire 1078

Lord Tweedmouth 1079
Lord Ribblesdale 1079
Earl of Morley 1079

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Earl of Camperdown 1080

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 2, after 'desirable,' insert 'to the Council.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Marquess of Londonderry 1080
Earl of Camperdown 1080

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 15, after 'county,' insert 'any of.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 17, leave out 'under this Act,' and insert 'so relinquished.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Hereford 1080

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 22, to insert as a new Clause: 'Subject to the approval of the Board of Education, the County or Borough Council may, if they think it desirable, make attendances at a reasonable number of continuation classes compulsory, either over the whole of their area or over any specified portion of it, for young persons under seventeen years of age and no longer attending school or receiving other equivalent instruction.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Duke of Devonshire 1083
Earl Spencer 1084

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 14, line 41, to leave out from the first 'education' to the end of the sub-Section."—(*The Lord President.*)

Lord Reay 1084
Lord Bishop of Hereford 1087
Earl Spencer 1088
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh 1089
Duke of Devonshire 1089
Lord Burghclere 1090
Lord Tweedmouth 1092
Lord Monkswell 1094

Lord Bishop of Winchester 1094
Earl of Leven and Melville 1095
Lord Coleridge 1095
The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) 1096

On Question, "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 14; Not-Contents, 58.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 15, lines 5 and 6, to leave out 'or in evening schools which are elementary schools'; in lines 7 and 8, to leave out 'of not more than 15 years of age.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 8, to leave out from 'school' to 'provided,' in line 10, and insert, 'who at the close of the school year will not be more than sixteen years of age.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments made.

Duke of Devonshire 1098

Amendments proposed—

"In page 19, line 34, after 'education,' insert 'including any powers, duties, property, or rights conferred, vested, or arising under any local Act or trust deed'; in page 21, lines 15 and 16, leave out 'and pay at such times and in such manner as they think fit'; in line 17, after 'year,' insert 'and may pay any Parliamentary grant which has accrued before the appointed day at such times and in such manner as they think fit'; in line 18, leave out 'earned by,' and insert 'payable to'; in line 26, after 'purposes,' insert 'provided that the Board of Education may, if they think fit, pay any share of the aid grant under the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, allotted to an association of voluntary schools to the governing body of that association, if such governing body satisfy the Board of Education that proper arrangements have been made for the application of any sum so paid.'"—(*The Lord President.*

Amendments agreed to.

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh... 1099
The Lord Bishop of Winchester 1100
Earl Spencer 1101
Lord Bishop of Winchester 1102
Duke of Devonshire 1102

Amendment moved—

"In page 23, line 16, after 'committee,' to insert 'or of any sub-committee appointed by that committee for school attendance purposes.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next, and to have precedence of the other notices and Orders of the Day, and to be printed as amended. (No. 201.)

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill.—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (*Lord Ashbourne*) 1103

Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Osborne Estate Bill.—Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next 1104

Mail Ships Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 1104

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. to be considered on Monday next in order to their being suspended for the remainder of the Session 1104

House adjourned at a quarter before Three o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).—Second Annual General Report of the Department, 1901–1902. 1105

INDIA (FAMINE).—Speech by the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, on the work of the Conciliation Boards in the Central Provinces 1105

PRISONS (IRELAND).—Report of inquiry, held in November, 1902, into the facts and circumstances connected with, or relating to, the treatment while in Limerick Prison, and the nature and cause of the illness, of Mr. Timothy Flanagan; with appendices; presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 1105

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY (EXTENSION FROM BANAVIE TO MALLAIG).—Report by the Board of Trade as to the condition and working of the Banavie to Mallaig Railway, the rates and charges for traffic, and the receipts and expenditure of any company in working the railway for the year ended 1st March, 1902: Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table 1105

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. considered [according to Order], and suspended for the remainder of the Session 1105

VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION.—

Earl Spencer 1105
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 1106

Education (England and Wales) Bill (THIRD READING).—Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

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Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*The Lord President.*)

Earl Spencer 1109
The Lord Bishop of Newcastle 1113
Lord Stanmore 1118
The Lord Bishop of Rochester 1122
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 1125

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 3ª accordingly.

The Earl of Wemyss 1132

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 5, after 'fix,' to insert 'provided also that no important steps shall be taken for the promotion of higher education by the local education authority without the assent of the ratepayers being previously obtained.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Reay 1136
The President of the Board of Education (*The Marquess of Londonderry*) 1137

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 1138
Earl Spencer 1138

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Duke of Norfolk 1139

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 7, page 4, line 30, after 'authority,' to insert 'but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds.'"—(*The Duke of Norfolk.*)

Earl Spencer 1139
Earl of Halsbury 1139
Duke of Devonshire 1140
Lord Tweedmouth 1140

On Questions, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 56; Not-Contents, 17.

Verbal Amendments agreed to.

Lord Ribblesdale 1141

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 17, page 11, line 1, to leave out 'nomination' and insert 'recommendation.'"—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Viscount Llandaff 1142

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 8, page 6, to insert the following new Clause, 'the Martmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1888, and so much of the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891, as requires that land assured by will shall be sold within one year from the death of the testator, shall not apply to any assurance, within the meaning of the said Act of 1888, of land for the purpose of a school house for an elementary school.' "—(*Viscount Llandaff.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Bill passed, and returned to the Commons; and to be printed as amended. (No. 202.)

BRITISH TRADERS ON THE CONGO.

Lord Avebury 1143
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1144

London Water Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order)

Clause 1:—

Vicount Hampden 1145

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 19, to leave out sub-Section (3) and to insert '(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Water Board shall consist of a chairman, a vice-chairman, and thirty-three other members, the chairman and vice-chairman shall be appointed by the Water Board, and the other members shall be appointed as follows:—Fourteen by the London County Council, two by the common council of the City, two by the County Council of Essex, two by the council of the borough of West Ham, three by the County Council of Kent, four by the County Council of Middlesex, three by the County Council of Surrey, one by the County Council of Hertfordshire, one by the Conservators of the River Thames, one by the Lea Conservancy Board.' "—(*Viscount Hampden.*)

The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 1152
Lord Tweedmouth 1158

On Question, "That sub-Section 3 stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 52; Not-Contents, 16.

Earl Carrington 1161

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 20, after 'and' to insert 'forty-three'; in line 24, to leave out 'two' and to insert 'one'; and in page 2, to leave out lines 1 and 2, and to insert, 'one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Poplar and Hackney, one by the Council of the metropolitan borough of Stepney, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Stoke Newington and Islington, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Bethnal Green, Shoreditch and Finsbury, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Holborn, St. Pancras, and Hampstead, one by the Councils of the Metropolitan boroughs of St. Marylebone and Westminster, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Paddington and Kensington, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Chelsea, Hammersmith, and

Fulham, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Wandsworth and Battersea, one by the Council of the metropolitan borough of Lambeth, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Southwark and Bermondsey, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Camberwell and Deptford, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham, and Woolwich'; in line 14 to leave out 'two,' and to insert 'one,' and to leave out lines 5 to 10, and to insert: 'One by the Councils of the urban districts of East Ham and Leyton, 'one by the Councils of the urban districts of Walthamstow, Buckhurst Hill, Chingford, Loughton, Waltham Holy Cross, Wanstead, and Woodford.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1163

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Earl Stanhope 1164

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 13, after 'Chislehurst,' to insert 'and,' and after 'Penge,' to insert 'one by the councils of the urban districts of.'"—(*Earl Stanhope.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1165

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

Lord Welby 1166

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 11, after the first 'the,' to insert 'London County Council on behalf of the'; and in line 12, after 'Act,' to insert 'as between the London County Council on behalf of the Board and the Company.'"—(*Lord Welby.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1169
Lord Welby 1169

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7:—

Lord Welby 1170

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, to leave out from 'as' to 'debenture' in line 11, and to insert 'in the opinion of the arbitrators will be equivalent in value to an equally good security producing the same income as the.'"—(*Lord Welby.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1171
Lord Monkswell 1174

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided :--Contents, 51 ; Not-Contents, 14.

Viscount Hampden 1174

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 33, to leave out from 'redeemable' to the end of the Clause."—(*Viscount Hampden.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1175

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1176

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 35 ('three') to insert as a new sub-Section. '(7) The water stock under this section substituted for any irredeemable debenture stock shall be held in the same rights, on the same trusts, and subject to the same powers, provisions, charges, and liabilities as those on or to which the debenture stock was held immediately before the substitution, and so as to give effect to, and not to revoke, any deed, will, or other instrument, or testamentary, or other disposition, disposing of, or effecting the debenture stock, and every such deed, will, instrument, or disposition, shall take effect with reference to the whole or a proportionate part, as the case may be, of the substituted water stock.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Lord Coleridge 1177
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1177

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9, amended and agreed to.

Clause 10 agreed to.

Clause 11, amended and agreed to.

Clause 12 :—
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1178

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 28, to leave out 'such day after,' and in lines 28 and 29 to leave out 'as the Local Government Board may fix.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 13, amended and agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 :—

Lord Monkswell 1178
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1179

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16, amended and agreed to.

Clause 17, amended and agreed to.

Clauses 18 to 25 agreed to.

Clause 26 :—

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1179

Amendment moved—

> "In page 22, line 23, to leave out 'to make those provisions conform with the provisions,' and to insert 'in consequence of the passing.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 36, agreed to.

Clause 37 :—

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1180

Amendment moved—

> "In page 25, line 29, after 'thereto,' to insert 'but subject to all debts, liabilities, and obligations of the company by this Act transferred to the Water Board.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Viscount Hampden... 1180
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1181

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 38 and 39 agreed to.

Clause 40, amended and agreed to.

Clauses 41 to 46 agreed to.

Clause 47 :—

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Viscount Hampden 1182

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, line 28, after 'misconduct,' to insert 'or whose salary is reduced.'"—(*Viscount Hampden.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1182
Viscount Hampden 1183

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 47 agreed to.

Remaining Clauses agreed to.

First and Second Schedules agreed to.

Third Schedule :—

Lord Tweedmouth 1183

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 2, after 'Board,' to insert as a new paragraph :— '1. A person shall be disqualified for being appointed a member of the Water Board by any constituent authority unless he is a member of the body or one of the bodies forming that constituent authority.'" —(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh... 1184
Lord Tweedmouth 1184

On Question, "That the new paragraph be here inserted," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 12; Not-Contents, 41.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Lord Coleridge 1185

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 25, after 'director,' to insert 'or shareholder.'" —(*Lord Coleridge.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1187

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Lord Ribblesdale 1187

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 27, after 'Board,' to insert the above new paragraph."—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Lord Ribblesdale 1188

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Amendment moved—

"In page 37, line 6, after 'thereon,' to insert as new paragraphs: '10. The term of office of a member of a Joint Committee shall be three years. 11. On the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and seven, and on the first day of January in every third year hereafter, all the members of a Joint Committee shall go out of office, and their places shall be filled by new appointments, but a person going out of office may, if otherwise qualified, be reappointed.'"—*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1188

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Lord Monkswell 1189

Amendment moved—

"In page 37, lines 10 and 11, to leave out 'Chairman and Vice-Chairman, or,' and to insert 'the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board shall be one year, and the term of office of.'"—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1190

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 39; Not-Contents, 11.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; the Report of the Amendments to be received Tomorrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 203.)

Glasgow Corporation (Water and General Order Confirmation) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order) and passed.

House of Lords Offices.—Third Report from the Select Committee considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

Militia and Yeomanry Bill [Second Reading].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Under Secretary of State for War (Earl of Hardwicke) 1191

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*)

The Marquess of Hertford 1192
The Marquess of Granby 1193
Lord Monkswell 1193
Earl of Hardwicke 1193

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

Osborne Estate Bill; Local Government (Ireland) (No 2) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without Amendment; then (Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and LXV. having been suspended) Bills read 3ª, and passed 1195

Mail Ships Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 1195

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Twelve o'clock a.m., till half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means ... 1195

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Liverpool, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1195

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1196

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Return showing for the year ended the 31st day of August, 1902, (1) the number of public elementary day schools and higher elementary schools which charge fees; (2) the number of free scholars in those schools; (3) the number of scholars paying fees in those schools; and (4) the school fees charged [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1196

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Second Annual General Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 1901–2 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1196

PRISONS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Report of Inquiry, held in November, 1902, into the facts and circumstances connected with or relating to the treatment while in Limerick Prison, and the nature and cause of the illness of Mr. Timothy Flanagan, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1196

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (IRELAND) (POPULATION).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd October; Mr. Thomas O'Donnell]; to lie upon the Table 1196

EAST INDIA (FAMINE).—Copy presented, of Speech by the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, on the work of the Conciliation Boards in the Central Provinces [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1196

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY (EXTENSION FROM BANAVIE TO MALLAIG).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade as to the condition and working of the Banavie and Mallaig Railway, the rates and charges for traffic, and the receipts and expenditure of any Company in working the Railway, for the year ended 31st March, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 396.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER—WAR OFFICE CLERKS SERVING DURING THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1197

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EDUCATION BILL—RATING OF NON-COUNTY BOROUGHS HAVING ENDOWMENTS. —Question, Mr. Cautley (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour … … 1197

EDUCATION BILL—CLAUSE 11—SECOND SCHEDULE, RULE 15.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Sir William Anson … … … … … … … … … … 1198

MINISTERS OF COMMERCE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Question, Mr. Louis Sinclair (Essex, Romford); Answer, Lord Cranborne … … … 1199

SUGAR BOUNTIES—EFFECT OF ABOLITION ON LEEWARD ISLANDS SUGAR ESTATES.—Question, Mr. M'Kenna (Monmouthshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain … … … … … … … … 1199

SCOTTISH CONTINUATION CLASSES GRANT—PROPORTION FOR CROFTING COUNTIES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray … … … … … … … … 1199

WICK SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT—EXTENSION OF AREA.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, Mr. A. Graham-Murray … … 1200

HANWELL POOR LAW SCHOOLS—EARS AND THROAT DISEASES.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. Walter Long … … 1200

TORPEDO BOAT NO. 81.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster … … … … … … … … … … 1201

NAVAL GUNNERY—TELESCOPIC SIGHTS.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster … … … … … … … … 1201

MARINE ARTILLERY AND LIGHT INFANTRY.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster … … … … … … … 1202

UGANDA RAILWAY.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Lord Cranborne … … … … … … … … … 1202

CONDITION OF MACEDONIA.—Question, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.); Answer, Lord Cranborne… … … … … … … … … 1202

SOUTH AFRICA—TRANSFER OF BLOCKHOUSES FROM MILITARY TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain … 1203

PRETORIA FIELD FORCE CANTEEN.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1203

WEST AFRICAN RAILWAY CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. W. F. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercrombie); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain … … … 1203

IRISH REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham … … … … 1204

RESERVE OFFICERS.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Brodrick … … … … … … … … 1204

ARMY CLOTHING CONTRACTS—ALLEGED SWEATING.—Question, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University); Answer, Mr. Brodrick … … … … 1205

ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL—PROFESSOR WRIGHT.—Question, Mr. Goulding (Wiltshire, Devizes); Answer, Mr. Brodrick… … … … … 1206

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—FURLOUGH ALLOWANCE FOR RETURNING TROOPS.—Question, Sir Elliott Lees (Birkenhead); Answer, Mr. Brodrick … … 1206

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EDUCATION BILL—PAYMENT OF OLD GRANTS PENDING "APPOINTED DAY."—Question, Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham); Answer, Sir William Anson ... 1207

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

GOVERNMENT AID FOR UNEMPLOYED RESERVISTS.—Questions, Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket), and Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr-Tydvil): Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) ... 1207

2ND PROVISIONAL REGIMENT OF HUSSARS. — Question, Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1209

EXAMINATION FOR OFFICERS COMMISSIONS.—Question, Mr. Robson (South Shields); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1209

27TH REGIMENTAL DISTRICT COMMAND.—Questions, Mr. Archdale (Fermanagh, N.) and Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 1210

DEFENCE OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 1210

THE CHINESE REGIMENT.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1211

GRAVESEND BARRACKS.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1211

NAVAL MANŒUVRES.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1212

INDIAN CURRENCY—EFFECT OF CLOSING THE MINTS—SUGGESTED INQUIRY.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 1212

VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION—PRESENT POSITION.—Questions, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.), Lord Charles Beresford (Woolwich), Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs), and Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.), and the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 1212

CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES—RECIPROCITY TREATY.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, Lord Cranborne ... 1214

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION—Questions, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee), Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis), and Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1214

BRITISH WEST INDIAN SUGAR EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. Edmund Robertson; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcester, E.) 1217

JAMAICA SUGAR EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. Edmund Robertson; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1217

VILLAGE HOMES FOR POOR LAW CHILDREN.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)... 1218

PETROLEUM TESTS.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1218

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ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, SUTTON-ON-PLYM.—Questions, Mr. Charles M'Arthur; Answers, The Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 1218

MARYBOROUGH ASSIZES—KILBRIDGE TRIAL—CROWN CHALLENGES OF JURORS.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1220

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE OFFICALS OCCUPYING EVICTED FARMS AND GRAZING LANDS.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1221

FORESTRY IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1221

IRISH EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1221

BALLINGROBE ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1222

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CLERKS ASSOCIATION.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1222

IRISH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1223

COMMISSIONERS OF WOODS AND FORESTS AND VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Question Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 1223

EDUCATION BILL—LORDS AMENDMENT.—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1223

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.—Questions, Major Rasch and Mr. Keir Hardie; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1224

VENEZUELA—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.—

Mr. Schwann 1224

The pleasure of the House having been signified, the Motion stood over until the Evening sitting this day.

Uganda Railway Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea, District) 1225
The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 1225
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1226
Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) 1227
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 1227
Col. Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs) 1228
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 1228
Lord Cranborne 1230
Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.) 1235

Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick) 1238
Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, (Eifion) 1239
Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) 1241
Sir James Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.) 1242
Mr. T. M. Healy 1244

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time tomorrow.

The Sitting was suspended at ten minutes past Four o'clock.

VENEZUELA—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.) 1245
Mr. Phillips (Pembroke) 1254

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Schwann.*)

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 1260
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 1267
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1271
Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 1277
Lord Charles Beresford (Woolwich) 1278
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1278
Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.) 1279
Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) 1281
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1283
Sir James Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.) 1284
Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye) 1284
Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham) 1285
Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston) 1286

Question put, and negatived.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Education (England and Wales) Bill, with Amendments 1287

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 309] 1288

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [10th November], "That Mr. SPEAKER do now leave the Chair for Committee on East India Revenue Accounts."—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton*) 1288

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to 1288

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.—

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it appears by the Accounts laid before this House, that the total revenue of India for the year ending on the 31st March, 1901, was £75,272,291, and that the total expenditure in India and in England charged against revenue was £73,602,087; that there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £1,670,204; and that the capital outlay on Railways and Irrigation Works not charged against revenue was £4,040,958.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton*) 1288

Resolution to be reported.

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 2922. Portugal (Province of St. Thomé and Principe). Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 1289

SEAMEN'S SAVINGS BANKS, MONEY ORDERS, AND TRANSMISSION OF WAGES.—Account of all deposits received and repaid by the Board of Trade, under the authority of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, during the year ended 20th November, 1901, and of the interest thereon. Statement showing the number and amount of seamen's money orders issued and paid, at ports in the United Kingdom and at ports abroad, from 1855 to 31st March, 1902. Also, statement showing the receipts and payments in connection with the transmission of seamen's wages, home and foreign, from 1878 to 31st March, 1902 1289

GENERAL LIGHTHOUSE FUND.—An account of the General Lighthouse Fund, showing the income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1902. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 1289

VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION.

Earl Spencer 1289
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 1289

London Water Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order).

The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 1289

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 9, page 7, line 32, to leave out from 'section' to the end of the sub-Section, and to insert as a new sub-Section: '(7.) Every Adventurers' share and every King's share, and every part of an Adventurers' or King's share, and any water stock issuable or issued in respect of any such share or part of a share, and the right to receive any such water stock shall—(i) until the appointed day; and (ii) after the appointed day, but thereafter only unless or until—(*a*) some person who is *sui juris* is absolutely entitled beneficially in possession to or has a general power to dispose of such share or part of a share, or such water stock; or (*b*) such share or part of a share, or such water stock

or the right to receive such water stock, is transferred on a sale to a purchaser for all purposes of disposition, transmission, and devolution, be considered as land, and (so far as regards such water stock or right to receive water stock) be held for and go to the same persons in the same manner and for and on the same estates, interests, and trusts as the Adventurers' or King's share, or the part of an Adventurers' or King's share, in respect of which the water stock is issuable or issued, would have been held and have gone under any will, settlement, or other instrument affecting that share or part of a share, or otherwise, if this Act had not been passed. For the purposes of this provision the expression "general power" includes every power or authority enabling the donee or other holder thereof to appoint or dispose of the fee simple or absolute interest of or in property in possession as he thinks fit, but exclusively of any power exercisable in a fiduciary capacity or exercisable as tenant for life under the Settled Land Acts, 1882 to 1890, or as mortgagee.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Lord Coleridge 1291

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1291

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 43, page 28, line 30, after 'that' to insert—'(*a*) if the amount payable in any year under this section to any company exceeds the amount which, by reason of any limitation on the dividend of that company, would have been distributable as dividend if this Act had not been passed, the excess shall not be paid to the company; and (*b*)' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments to Clauses 45 and 47 agreed to.

Drafting Amendment to Second Schedule agreed to.

On Schedule 3 (constitution and proceedings of Water Board):—

Lord Coleridge 1292

Amendment moved—

"In the Third Schedule, page 35, line 24, after 'director,' to insert 'or shareholder.' "—(*Lord Coleridge.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1294

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Earl Carrington 1294
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1294

Amendment [of Lord Carrington's] agreed to.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. suspended.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Lord Welby 1294

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 3 with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons; and to be printed as amended [No. 204.]

Militia and Yeomanry Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment.

Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. suspended.

The Under Secretary of State for War (the Earl of Hardwicke) ... 1295

Bill read 3^{a} (according to Order) and passed.

TRAINING OF CADET CORPS AND BATTALIONS.

The Earl of Meath 1295
The Under Secretary of State for War (The Earl of Hardwicke) ... 1306

THE RE-STOCKING OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Lord Burghclere 1312
The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Earl of Onslow)... 1313

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.

Lord Welby 1311
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1315

WESTMINISTER ABBEY—SUPPOSED ILLEGAL ORNAMENTS.

Lord Kinnaird 1318
The First Commissioner of Works (Lord Windsor) 1318
TheLord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury) 1318

House adjourned at Seven o'clock, till Tomorrow, Six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means ... 1320

PETITIONS.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from North Berwick, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1320

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Ratcliffe-cum-Farnworth, against; to lie upon the Table... 1320

METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Petition from Edinburgh, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 1320

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (IRELAND) (POPULATION).—Return [presented 15th December] to be printed. [No. 397.] 1320

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (REPRODUCTIVE UNDERTAKINGS).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th June; *Sir Henry Fowler*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 398.] 1320

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th December; *The Lord Advocate*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 399.] 1320

RAILWAYS (STOCK, ETC.).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 15th July; *Mr. Claude Hay*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 400.] ... 1320

GENERAL LIGHTHOUSE FUND.—Account presented, of the General Lighthouse Fund, showing the Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 401.] ... 1321

SEAMEN'S SAVINGS BANKS (MONEY ORDERS AND TRANSMISSION OF WAGES).—Accounts presented, of all Deposits received and repaid during the year ended 20th November, 1901, and Statement as to Money Orders issued and paid from 1855 to 31st March, 1902, and of Receipts and Payments in connection with the Transmission of Seamen's Wages from 1878 to 31st March, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 402.] 1321

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2921 and 2922 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1321

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 586 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1321

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (LONDON).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 403] ... 1321

POOR LAW CHILDREN (COTTAGE HOMES).—Return ordered, "showing the names of the Unions the Guardians of which have provided grouped Cottage Homes or other similar establishments for Poor Law Children, the situation of such establishments, and the total cost per head per annum of the children in each establishment during the year ended the 25th day of March, 1902."—(*Sir Walter Foster*) 1321

PRACTICE OF THE HOUSE—APPROPRIATION OF SEATS BEFORE PRAYERS.—*Mr. Swift MacNeill; Mr. Speaker* 1322

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

ARGENTINA CATTLE REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, Mr. Hanbury 1322

BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 1323

PACIFIC CABLE—VANCOUVER-FANNING SECTION. — Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1323

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AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH LABOUR LAWS — EXCLUSION OF ENGLISH HATTERS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1325

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SCOTTISH FISHERY POLICE—H.M.S. "JACKAL." — Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1326

MUZZLING ORDER IN PEMBROKESHIRE.—Question, Mr. Phillips (Pembrokeshire); Answer, Mr. Hanbury... 1326

MERCHANT SHIPPING—BOARD OF TRADE CERTIFICATE—COLOUR BLINDNESS TESTS.—Question, Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1327

COAL—PIT WOOD RETURNS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1327

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN DERBYSHIRE.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1328

WEYBOURNE BEACH.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, S.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1329

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BELTURBET TELEGRAPH STAFF.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1330

EASTERN TELEGRAPH CABLES.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1330

CONGO—ARREST OF HERR ROBINEK.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1331

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Partington (Derbyshire, High Peak); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1331

TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. W. F. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercrombie); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1331

KHAIRPUR—STATE SALES OF SALT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 1331

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS—RATE OF INTEREST.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1332

DUBLIN CORPORATION MEDICAL OFFICERS.—Question, Dr. Thompson; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1332

AUXILIARY FORCES—ESTABLISHMENT STATISTICS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1333

GARRISON REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Goulding (Wiltshire, Devizes); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1333

RESERVE FORCES—SUPPOSED RE-ENGAGEMENTS FOR INDIAN SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Goulding; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1333

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EDUCATION BILL—RATING OF URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Sir Robert Finlay 1333

EDUCATION BILL—RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION—ALTERATIONS IN TRUST DEEDS.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1334

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COST OF SOMALILAND OPERATIONS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1334

GUNNERS IN THE CHANNEL FLEET.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1335

VENEZUELA.—Question, Mr. Fuller (Wiltshire, Westbury); Answer, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) ... 1335

WEST AFRICAN RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1335

SULTAN OF SOKOTO AND THE NIGER COMPANY.—Questions, Mr. Emmott (Oldham), and Sir Charles Dilke; Answers, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 1336

FLASH POINT OF PETROLEUM.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1338

VACCINATION.—Question, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 1339

ENGLISH APPOINTMENTS TO IRISH POSTMASTERSHIPS.—Questions, Mr. Tully, and Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 1339

BLACKSOD BAY COASTGUARD.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1339

IRISH DISPENSARY APPOINTMENTS.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1340

IRISH LAND CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1340

RATHMULLAN (DONEGAL) PIER.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1341

ROMAN CATHOLIC CATECHIST FOR THE ARMAGH UNION.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1341

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Militia and Yeomanry Bill; Osborne Estate Bill; Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill; Mail Ships Bill; Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

London Water Bill, with Amendments 1342

London Water Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 310.] 1342

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SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put "That the Proceedings on Consideration of the Lords Amendments to the Education (England and Wales) Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this day, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 182; Noes, 55. (Division List No. 634.) ... 1342

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Order read, for consideration of Lords Amendments.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Sir H. Campbell Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 1345
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 1346
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1346
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 1346

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1349
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1350
Mr. Lloyd-George 1350
Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 1354
Mr. Alfred Hutton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Morley*) 1357

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 228; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 635.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment:—

"In page 1, lines 21 and 22, leave out 'including the training of teachers.'"

The first Amendment, read a second time.

The Secretary of the Board of Education (*Sir William Anson, Oxford University*) 1361

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr. Alfred Hutton 1361
Mr. Lloyd-George 1361
Sir William Harcourt 1362
Sir William Hart-Dyke (*Kent, Dartford*) 1362
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1362
Mr. Ellis Griffith (*Anglesey*) 1363

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 235 ; Noes, 88. (Division List, No. 636.)

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 2, line 26, agreed to.

Lords Amendment :—

> "In page 2, line 26, after 'provided,' insert 'except in cases where the Council, at the request of parents or scholars, or on other grounds, allow any religious instruction to be given in the school, college, or hostel otherwise than at the cost of the Council.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 1366

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

> "To leave out the words 'or on other grounds.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Sir William Anson... 1368
Mr. Trevelyan (*Yorkshire, W.R., Elland*) 1369
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1370
Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) 1370

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment made to the Lords Amendment—

> "By inserting, after the last Amendment, the words 'at such times and under such conditions as the Council think desirable.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Mr. Lloyd-George 1371

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

> "At the end, to add the words 'provided that no Council shall afford facilities to one denomination which it is not prepared to extend to any other denomination, when so desired by parents of scholars.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be added to the Lords Amendment."

The Attorney General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 1372
Sir William Harcourt 1373
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1374
Lord Hugh Cecil 1374

Proposed Amendment to Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment made to the Lords Amendment—

> "By adding at the end thereof the words, 'Provided that in the exercise of this power no unfair preference shall be shown to any religious denomination.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment as amended."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

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Mr. Emmott (*Oldham*) 1375
Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 1376
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*)... 1377
Mr. Alfred Hutton 1378
Mr. Nussey (*Pontefract*) 1379
Mr. Bryce 1380

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 231 ; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 637.)

Lords Amendments—

"In page 3, line 14, after 'them,' insert 'a body of managers consisting of.'"

"In page 3, line 20, leave out 'representing local authorities.'"

"In page 3, line 21, leave out 'also as provided in this Act,' and insert."

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 4, after 'managers,' insert 'but no directions given under this provision shall be such as to interfere with reasonable facilities for religious instruction during school hours.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'during school hours,' and to insert the words 'either at the beginning or at the end or at the beginning and the end of the meeting of the school.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of Lords Amendment."

Proposed Amendment to the Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 20, after 'authority,' insert 'provided that all damage due to fair wear and tear in the use of any room in the school-house for the purpose of a public elementary school shall be made good by the local education authority [but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds].'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Lloyd-George 1383

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the word 'all,' and insert the word 'such.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed. "That the word 'all,' stand part of the Lords Amendment."

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Sir Robert Finlay 1385
Sir James Fergusson (*Manchester, N.E.*) 1385
Sir William Harcourt 1386
Sir John Dorington (*Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury*) 1387
Mr. Henry Hobhouse (*Somersetshire, E.*) 1387
Mr. Bryce 1389
Sir George Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 1389
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1389
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1389
Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) 1392
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton E.*) 1392
Mr. Cripps (*Lancashire, Stretford*) 1393
Dr. Macnamara 1394
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire Mid*)... 1394
Mr. Duke (*Plymouth*) 1395
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 1396
Mr. Bousfield (*Hackney, N.*) 1398

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 165 ; Noes, 194. (Division List No. 638.)

Proposed words inserted in the Lords Amendment.

Amendment made to the Lords Amendment—

"By inserting, after the word 'damage,' the words 'as local authority consider to be.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Mr. Lloyd-George 1401
Mr. Soares (*Devonshire, Barnstaple*) 1402
Mr. Trevelyan 1402
Mr. Lloyd-George 1403

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds.'"—(*Sir James Fergusson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Mr. Trevelyan 1404
Mr. Wanklyn (*Bradford, Central*)... 1405
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1405
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1406
Mr. Samuel Evans 1406
Colonel Pilkington (*Lancashire, Newton*) 1407
Mr. T. M. Healy 1407
Mr. Gibson Bowles 1408

It being half-past Seven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put," but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

The Debate stood adjourned until the Evening Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Order read, for resuming adjourned Debate on Amendment [this day] to Lords Amendment, "In page 4, line 20, after 'authority,' insert 'provided that all damage due to fair wear and tear in the use of any room in the school-house for the purpose of a public elementary school shall be made good by the local education authority [but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds].'"

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the words 'but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds.'"—(*Sir James Fergusson.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Mr. Ellis Griffith 1409
Mr. Griffith Boscawen (*Kent, Tunbridge*) 1410
Mr. Herbert Samuel (*Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland*)... 1411
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*) 1412
Mr. Theodore Taylor (*Lancashire, Radcliffe*) 1413
Mr. Soares 1414
Mr. Lloyd-George 1415
Mr. Paulton (*Durham, Bishop Auckland*) 1416

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 200. (Division List No. 639.)

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice... 1413
Mr. Theodore Taylor (*Lancashire, Radcliffe*) 1413
Mr. Soares 1414
Mr. Lloyd-George 1415
Mr. Paulton (*Durham, Bishop Auckland*) 1416

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 200. (Division List No. 639.)

Mr. Ernest Gray (*West Ham, N.*)... 1419

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"After the last Amendment, to insert the words 'and provided also that the managers shall place the said school house in such state of good repair as may be satisfactory to the local education authority before any liability in respect of such damage is incurred by such authority.'"

Question put, "That those words be there inserted in the Lords Amendment."

Sir Robert Finlay 1419
Mr. Bryce 1420
Mr. Bousfield 1420

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 112 ; Noes, 233. (Division List, No. 640.)

Sir James Fergusson 1423

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment as amended."—(*Sir James Fergusson.*)

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1426
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1431
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 1435
Mr. Henry Hobhouse (*Bristol, S.*) 1441
Sir Edward Strachey 1442
Mr. Chaplin (*Lincolnshire, Sleaford*) 1443
Sir George Newnes (*Swansea Town*) 1444
Dr. Macnamara 1446
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 1448

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 197 ; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 641.)

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1453
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1454
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1455

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 5, line 7, agreed to.

Further consideration of Lords Amendments adjourned till tomorrow.

Uganda Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1456

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at half after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1869.—Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for the year 1901 1457

COLONIES : ANNUAL.—No. 375. Gold Coast (Report for 1901) 1457

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the nine months ended 30th September, 1902, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), 34th and 35th Victoria, chap. 78 ; together with reports of the inspecting officers and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into 1457

PRESS TELEGRAMS.—Agreement between the United Kingdom and Sweden for the exchange of Press telegrams at reduced rates.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1457

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888.

I. Part I. Orders under Section 57 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board, of the following County and County Borough Councils:—

(1.) Bournemouth (County Borough). For uniting the parishes of Bournemouth, Pokesdown, Southbourne, and Winton to form the parish of Bournemouth.

(2.) Chester. For adding the rural parish of Brinnington to the parish of Bredbury, and the Bredbury and Romiley Urban District.

(3.) Glamorgan. For uniting the parishes of Cogon, Llandough, and Penarth, to form the parish of Penarth.

(4.) Kent. For altering the boundary between the urban district and parish of Beckenham, and the urban district and parish of Bromley.

(5.) Kent. For adding the parish of East Wickham to the parish of Bexley and the Bexley Urban District.

(6.) Leicester. For uniting the parishes of Loughborough and Knightthorpe to form the parish of Loughborough.

(7.) Middlesex. For altering the boundaries between the urban district and parish of Harrow-on-the-Hill and the urban district and parish of Wealdstone.

(8.) Norfolk. For transferring a portion of the parish of Felbrigg from the Erpingham Rural District to the parish of Cromer and the Cromer Urban District.

(9.) Norfolk. For abolishing the Guiltcross Rural District, and for transferring the parishes comprised therein to be Depwade, Thetford, and Wayland Rural Districts.

(10.) Southampton. For transferring a part of the parish of Hound to the parish of Hamble, in the South Stoneham Union.

(11.) Southampton. For adding a part of the parish and rural district of Warblington to the parish and urban district of Havant.

(12.) Southampton. For transferring an area from the Havant Urban District to the Havant Rural District, and for constituting the transferred area the parish of North Havant.

(13.) Southampton. For dividing the parish of Headley, in the Alton Union, into the parishes of Grayshott and Headley.

(14.) Surrey. For defining the boundary between the parishes of Chobham and Windlesham, in the Chertsey Union.

(15.) Worcester. For defining the boundary between the parish of Alvechurch, in the Bromsgrove Rural District, and the parish of Beoley, in the King's Norton and Northfield Urban District.

Part II. Order under Section 59 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board, of the following County Council:—

(1.) Dorset. For amending the County of Dorset (Wimborne Minster) Confirmation Order, 1892, the County of Dorset (Wimborne Minster) Confirmation Order, 1894, and the County of Dorset (Colehill and Holt) Confirmation Order, 1896.

II. Rule under the Act, dated 28th November, 1902... 1457

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Order, dated 9th December, 1902, relative to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamship "Fremona." 1458

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).—Return of all loans raised in India under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended on the 30th September, 190 , with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, etc.

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Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table... 1458

QUEENSLAND AND THE REPATRIATION OF THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

Lord Stanmore 1459
The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Onslow*) ... 1459

Uganda Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1ª.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. suspended.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 1459
Earl Spencer 1461

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2ª accordingly ; Committee negatived ; Bill read 3ª, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with several of the Amendments agreed to ; several others agreed to with Amendments, and with a consequent Amendment to the Bill ; and one disagreed to, with reason for such disagreement.

The said Amendments and reason considered (on Motion), and agreed to.

On the Amendment to which the Commons disagreed 1466

The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 1466
Earl Spencer 1466

On Question, " That their Lordships do not insist on the said Amendment."

Agreed to.

London Water Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 1466

House adjourned at Twelve o'clock till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the County of Cambridge (Eastern or Newmarket Division), in the room of Colonel Harry Leslie Blundell M'Calmont, C.B., deceased.—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood*) 1466

PETITIONS.

DESTITUTE ALIENS.—Petitions for legislation : From Stepney (two) ; Stepney Green (three) ; Mile End ; Bethnal Green ; Commercial Road, East (four) ; Victoria Park ; Stoke Newington ; Upper Clapton ; Old Ford ; and Poplar ; to lie upon the Table 1467

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DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour : From Ferry ; and, Port on Craig ; to lie upon the Table 1467

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Stoke St. Michael, against ; to lie upon the Table... 1467

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Ramsey, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1467

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the various County and County Borough Councils in England and Wales under Section 57 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table 1467

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1894 AND 1896.—Copy presented, of an Order dated 9th December, 1902, relative to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamship "Fremona" [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table 1467

CASUALTIES TO SHIPS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th March ; *Mr. Lough*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 404.] 1467

NAVY (SHIPS' BOILERS).—Further Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th May ; *Lord Charles Beresford*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 405.] 1467

POST OFFICE PRESS TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SWEDEN. —Copy presented, of agreement between the United Kingdom and Sweden for the Exchange of Press Telegrams at reduced rates [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1467

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 375 (Gold Coast, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1468

EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).—Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in India, chargeable on the revenues of India, out-standing at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 30th September, 1902, etc. [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 406.] ... 1468

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the nine months ending 30th September, 1902, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers, Assistant Inspecting Officers, and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1468

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for the year 1901 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1468

COUNTY BOROUGHS (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th November ; *Mr. O'Doherty*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 407.]

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House 1468

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888. (RULES).—Copy of Rules under Section 89 (3) of The Local Government Act, 1888 1468

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EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Return ordered, "showing under county boroughs and administrative counties, for each public elementary school receiving an income from school pence, the name and denomination of the school, and the religious denomination, if any, with which it is connected, and the amount received from school pence for the year ended the 31st day of August, 1902 (in continuation of the first, second, fourteenth and fifteenth columns of Parliamentary Paper [C. 315], of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Bryce.*) 1468

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

ROYAL ENGINEER OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1469

ISLAND OF LEWIS AND ROSS-SHIRE—EPIDEMIC SICKNESS.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answers, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1469

FISHERMEN'S DWELLINGS AT STORNOWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1470

PORT NESS HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1470

ISLAND OF LEWIS—CONTINUATION CLASSES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1471

IRISH COUNTY AND BOROUGH SHERIFFS.—Question, Sir James Haslett (Belfast, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson... 1471

GREENCASTLE (DONEGAL) POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1472

LONDON GENERAL POST OFFICE—ALLEGED INSANITARY CONDITION.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1472

TRAVELLING POST OFFICE OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1472

WEST INDIAN CANE SUGAR—GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1472

POLICE SALES OF LOST DOGS.—Questions, Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square) and Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. Akers Douglas 1473

PRISON OFFICERS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. John Hutton (Yorkshire, Richmond); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1474

BETTING LAWS.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1474

CATTERICK (YORKSHIRE) CHURCH GRAVEYARD.—Question, Mr. John Hutton; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1474

STATUE OF JAMES II. IN WHITEHALL.—Question, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes... 1475

BUSHEY PARK—CONCESSIONS TO TRAMWAY COMPANY.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 1475

MR. ALDRITT, MAYOR OF TAMWORTH—REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.—Question, Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Answer, Sir. Robert Finlay 1476

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CORONATION SPECIMEN COINS.—Question, Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid); Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher 1476

RIFLE CLUBS AND GUN LICENCES.—Question, Captain Bowles (Middlesex, Enfield); Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher 1477

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT CLERKS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr, Skewes-Cox (Surrey, Kingston); Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher 1477

NEW QUESTION RULE—COST OF PRINTING.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 1477

DONEGAL AND LONDONDERRY COUNTY BOUNDARIES.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1478

MARINE WORKS ON THE DONEGAL COAST.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1478

DUNGUIN (KERRY) PIER.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1479

LAND JUDGES' COURT—FIFTH RETURN OF ESTATES.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1479

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—TEACHERS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEANLINESS OF SCHOOL PREMISES.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1479

LISMORE WORKHOUSE MASTER.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1480

GARRISON AND FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICERS—LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PROMOTION.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 1480

BUNCRANA (DONEGAL) MILITARY BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1481

ARMY CONTRACTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA—PREFERENCE FOR SUPPLIES FROM BRITISH IMPERIAL SOURCES.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1481

SOUTH AFRICA—RAILWAY RATES FOR CANTEEN SUPPLIES.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1481

ARMY ANNUAL PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL RETURNS.—Questions, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answers, Mr. Brodrick... 1482

ARMY RESERVE STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. Beckett (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1483

NEW ARMY CORPS—COMPOSITION OF STAFFS.—Question, Mr. Beckett; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1483

RECENT EXPLOSION AT WALTHAM ABBEY.—Question, Col. Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1483

SOUTH AFRICA—CLARK'S SIDING REMOUNT FARM.—Question, Col. Welby (Taunton); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1483

SOUTH AFRICA—FIELD FORCE CANTEEN CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1484

EDUCATION BILL—PARLIAMENTARY GRANTS DUE BEFORE APPOINTED DAY.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Sir William Anson ... 1484

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DEVONPORT DOCKYARD—DISCHARGES OF WORKMEN.—Question, Mr. Lockie (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1486

CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE—EXTRA DUTIES.—Question, Major Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1486

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VENEZUELA—THE BAN RIGH.—Question, Mr. Channing; Answer, Lord Cranborne 1487

BRITISH CEMETERY AT CORFU.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1487

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VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION—PRESENT POSITION.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.), Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis), Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.), Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean), Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil), Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.), and Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1488

GLEN OF IMAAL ARTILLERY CAMP—FORAGE CONTRACT.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.), Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford), and The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1492

1ST INNISKILLING FUSILIERS—RETURN HOME.—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 1493

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PRIZE FIRING IN THE NAVY.—Questions, Mr. Yerburgh (Chester), Mr. Lucas (Portsmouth), and Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, E.R., Shipley); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1495

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), and Sir William Harcourt; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester), and Mr. A. J. Balfour 1498

UGANDA RAILWAY—COMMISSION TO CROWN AGENTS.—Question. Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1500

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TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1501

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ARGENTINE CATTLE RESTRICTIONS.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1503

HEAD POST OFFICE. — Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1504

SUNDAY WORK IN THE POST OFFICE—RICHMOND POSTMAN'S GRIEVANCE.—Question, Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1504

CHRISTMAS WORK IN THE POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. John Burns; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1504

POST OFFICE—SPECIAL LEAVE REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1505

EDUCATION BILL—NOMINATED MEMBERS OF EDUCATION COMMITTEES.—Question, Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.); Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) ... 1505

IRISH STATIONERY OFFICE TENDERS.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hayes Fisher, Fulham)... 1506

SOUTH DUBLIN UNION—BUILDING LOAN.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Hayes Fisher 1506

IRISH LIGHTS BOARD.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 1507

RAE ESTATE, KILLORGLIN, KERRY.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1507

IMPRISONED IRISH MEMBERS.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1507

TIPPERARY COUNTY INFIRMARY.—Questions, Mr. Tully and Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1508

WOMEN INSPECTORS OF BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1508

SIR F. J. HART'S ESTATE, CO. CAVAN.—Question, Mr. M'Govern; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1508

IRISH HIGH SHERIFFS.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1509

SCARVA (DOWN) POLICE BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1510

NEWCASTLE AND BALLYROONEY RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1510

MULLINGAR LUNATIC ASYLUM ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. M'Govern; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1510

DILLON ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Carew (Meath, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham... 1511

ENGLISH OFFICIAL IN THE IRISH POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1512

DUNDALK POSTMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1512

EDGEWORTHSTOWN POSTMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1513

WAZIRI EXPEDITION.—Question, Mr. Cremer; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 1514

SESSION OF 1903.—Questions, Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) and Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1514

EDUCATION BILL—ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION FOR ADULTS IN EVENING SCHOOLS.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 1515

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Uganda Railway Bill, without Amendment.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Lords Amendment further considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 8, after 'authority,' insert 'shall as regards its character be.'"

The next Amendment read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) 1516
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1520
Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 1530
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport*) 1533
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 1536
Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 1536
Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 1537

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 5, line 10, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 10, after 'managers,' insert 'provided that nothing in this sub-Section shall affect any provision in a trust deed for reference to the bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority, so far as such provision gives to the bishop or authority the power of deciding whether the character of the religious instruction is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.'"

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The next Amendment read a second time.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1538
Mr. Austin Taylor 1539

Amendment proposed to the Lords' Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words, 'But where any such decision is given by a bishop or other superior ecclesiastical authority of the Church of England, the decision shall be in accordance with the law as declared by the courts having jurisdiction in matters ecclesiastical.'"—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be added to the Lords Amendment."

Sir Robert Finlay 1544
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1545
Colonel Pilkington (*Lancashire, Newton*) 1547
Sir William Harcourt 1548
Mr. T. M. Healy 1549

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 93; Noes, 215. (Division List No. 642.)

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 229; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 643.)

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 5, line 32, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 32, after 'section,' insert as a new sub-Section, 'Any transfer of a public elementary school to or from a local education authority shall for the purposes of this Section be treated as the provision of a new school."

The next Amendment read a second time.

Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 1557

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"After the word 'section,' to insert the words 'and subject to the provisions of Section 24 of The Elementary Education Act, 1870.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Lords Amendment."

Sir William Anson 1558

Proposed Amendment to the Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*) 1559
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 1560
Mr. Alfred Hutton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Morley*) 1560

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Mr. Bryce 1561
Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich) 1561
Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.)... 1562
Dr. Macnamara 1562

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 224; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 644.)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 39, leave out 'already,' and insert 'for the time being.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Alfred Hutton... 1565
Sir William Anson 1565

Question, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment," put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 9, lines 10 and 11, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 9, lines 10 and 11, leave out 'they continue to charge fees,' and insert 'fees continue to be charged.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr. Bryce 1566
Dr. Macnamara 1567
Mr. Alfred Hutton 1567
Mr. A. J. Balfour... 1567

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords' Amendment amended—

"By leaving out in the words to be inserted the word 'fees,' and inserting the word 'they,' and by inserting after the word 'continue,' the words 'to allow fees.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 10, line 16, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In line 16, after 'nomination' to insert 'or recommendation.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson*)

Mr. Henry Hobhouse 1568
Sir William Harcourt 1569

Sir Albert Rollit 1569
Sir William Anson 1569
Mr. Bryce 1570
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid*) 1571

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 10, line 17, after 'bodies,' insert 'including associations of voluntary schools.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Sir Charles Dilke 1571
Mr. Alfred Hutton 1572
Mr. Lloyd-George 1573
Mr. Samuel Evans... 1573
Mr. A. J. Balfour... 1573
Mr. Bryce 1574

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 204 ; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 645).

It being after half-past Seven of the Clock, further consideration of the Lords Amendment stood adjourned till the Evening Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Lords Amendments further considered.

"In page 10, line 31, after 'Council' insert 'otherwise than under Part III. of this Act.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendment.

Mr. Lloyd-George 1577

Question, "That this House disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment," put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 11, lines 1 and 2, to leave out 'and may, if they think fit, hold a public inquiry.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Lloyd-George 1578

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 12, line 6, after 'expenditure' insert 'or rent.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Sir William Anson 1579

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Sir Charles Dilke 1579
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1580
Mr. Bryce 1581

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 646.)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 12, line 13, after 'loans,' insert 'or rent.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Sir Charles Dilke 1583
Mr. Bryce 1584

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 12, line 28, after 'apply' insert 'in lieu of the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, relating to accounts and audit.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Resolution.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Sir Albert Rollit 1584
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, E.*) 1585

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 14, line 12, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 14, line 12, leave out from the first 'Education' to the end of the sub-section."

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment".—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Dr. Macnamara 1586
Mr. A. J. Balfour... 1587
Mr. Bryce 1589
Mr. Henry Hobhouse 1590
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice 1590

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Mr. Ernest Gray 1590
Mr. Helme (Lancashire, Lancaster) 1591
Mr. Lloyd-George 1591

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 15, line 6, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 15, line 6, after 'school,' insert 'or college.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr. Bryce 1592

Question put, and agreed to.

A Consequential Amendment made to the Bill—

"In page 15, line 7, by leaving out 'Local Education Authority,' and inserting 'Council.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 20, line 26, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 20, line 26, after 'purposes,' insert 'provided that the Board of Education may, if they think fit, pay any share of the Aid Grant under the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, allotted to an association of Voluntary Schools, to the governing body of that association, if such governing body satisfy the Board of Education that proper arrangements have been made for the application of any sum so paid.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Dr. Macnamara 1593
Mr. Lloyd-George 1594
Sir Robert Finlay 1594
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice 1594
Sir John Dorrington 1595

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 151; Noes, 46. (Division List No. 647.)

Lords Amendment, as far as the Amendment in page 22, line 39, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 22, line 39, leave out 'to the,' and insert 'or in any provision of a scheme made under the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853, to 1894, or the Endowed Schools Acts, 1869 to 1889, or the Elementary Education Acts, 1870, to 1900, to any.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr Bryce ... 1597
Mr. Lloyd-George ... 1598
Sir Robert Finlay ... 1598
Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 1599

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 22, line 46, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 22, line 46, after 'Act,' insert as a new paragraph: 'The Local Government Board may, after consultation with the Board of Education, by order make such adaptations in the provisions of any local Act (including any Act to confirm a Provisional Order and any scheme under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, as amended by any subsequent Act) as may seem to them to be necessary to make those provisions conform with the provisions of this Act, and may also in like manner, on the application of any Council who have powers as to education under this Act, and have also powers as to education under any local Act, make such modifications in the local Act as will enable the powers under that Act to be exercised as if they were powers under this Act. Any order made under this provision shall operate as if enacted in this Act.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr. George Whiteley (*Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) ... 1599
Mr. Walter Long ... 1600
Mr. Samuel Evans ... 1600
Sir Robert Finlay ... 1601
Sir John Brunner ... 1601
Mr. Lloyd-George ... 1602

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 152; Noes, 42. (Division List No. 648.)

Committee appointed to draw up Reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to one of their Amendments to the Bill.

Committee nominated of Sir William Anson, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Long.

Committee to withdraw immediately.

Three to be the Quorum.—(*Sir William Anson*)

London Water Bill.—Lords Amendments considered and agreed to ... 1603

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Reason for disagreeing to one of the Lords Amendments, reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords ... 1604

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Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at half after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 1902.

ROYAL ASSENT—COMMISSION.—The following Bills received the Royal Assent.

1. Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2).
2. Patent Law Amendment.
3. Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland).
4. Expiring Laws Continuance.
5. Osborne Estate.
6. Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2).
7. Mail Ships.
8. Militia and Yeomanry.
9. Education (England and Wales).
10. London Water.
11. Uganda Railway.
12. Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation ... 1605

THE KING'S SPEECH.—His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands).

After which the LORD CHANCELLOR said—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of His Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed and now read, we do, in His Majesty's name, and in obedience to His commands, prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next, to be here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next."

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

IMPRISONMENT OF A MEMBER.—Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received a letter relating to the imprisonment of a Member 1609

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.——Petitions against: from Ashton-in-Makerfield; Bamfurlong; Golborne (two); and Lowton; to lie upon the Table. 1609

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LICENSED HOUSES.—Returns presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th March; *Sir Henry Fowler*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 408.] ... 1609

CIVIL SERVANTS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th November; *Mr. Gibson Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 409.]... 1610

OUTBREAK OF ANKYLOSTOMIASIS IN A CORNISH MINE.—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of State thereon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1610

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BRITISH FORESTRY.—Copy presented, of Report thereon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1610

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1901.—Copy presented, of Census of England and Wales, 1901 (County of Dorset) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1610

EAST INDIA (HYDERABAD).—Copy presented, of Agreement respecting the Hyderabad Assigned Districts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1610

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table—List of the Bills, Reports, Estimates, and Accounts and Papers printed by Order of the House, and of Papers presented by Command, Session 1901, with a General Alphabetical Index thereto, 27th Parliament, Third Session, 1st and 2nd Edward VII., 16th January, 1902, to 18th December, 1902; to be printed. [No. 410.] 1610

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH LABOUR LAWS — EXCLUSION OF ENGLISH HATTERS.—Question, Mr. David Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1611

GREENWICH OLD AGE PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1611

DECORATIONS AND ORDERS—MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1611

VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1612

EDUCATION BILL—CLAUSE 21 (b) AND (5).—Question, Mr. John Hutton (Yorkshire, N.R., Richmond); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1612

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Bryce; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1613

DUBLIN LICENCE HOLDERS.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1613

CORK WINTER ASSIZES—CROWN CHALLENGES OF JURORS—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1613

MARYBOROUGH WINTER ASSIZES—CROWN CHALLENGES OF JURORS—KILBRIDGE PROSECUTIONS.—Questions, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory) and Mr. Flynn; Answers, Mr. Atkinson 1614

INCOME TAX ARRANGEMENTS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Carew (Meath, S.); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1615

LONDON AND GLOBE CORPORATION.—Question, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough); Answer, Mr. Robert Finlay 1616

TELEGRAPHISTS' PROMOTIONS IN LONDON CENTRAL OFFICE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 1616

SHANNON DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1617

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE OFFICIALS OCCUPYING EVICTED FARMS AND GRAZING LANDS.—Questions, Mr. Tully and Dr. Thompson; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1617

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LEINSTER WINTER ASSIZES—JUDGE'S CHARGE TO GRAND JURY—PROCLAMATION OF LEINSTER UNDER THE CRIMES ACT.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Wyndham. 1618

CONDUCT OF POLICE AT BARTLEMY (CORK).—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork Co., N.E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1618

BAWNBOY LABOURERS' COTTAGE SCHEME.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1619

IRISH AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT—VETERINARY INSPECTOR AT QUEEN'S COUNTY SHOW.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1619

LAND PURCHASE—SUB-DIVISION OF HOLDINGS BEFORE PAYMENT OF ORIGINAL LOAN.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1620

POLICE PROTECTION FOR ROBERT OWEN, KILBRIDE.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1620

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL—CONTRACTS UNDER CLAUSE 18—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1621

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL—PRINTING CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1621

CARRIGBYRNE DISPENSARY MEDICAL OFFICER.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1621

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS—PAY OF JUNIOR OFFICERS IN INDIA.—Question, Dr. Thompson; Answer, Lord George Hamilton... 1622

FLASH POINT OF PETROLEUM COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1622

PETROLEUM TESTS IN NEW YORK.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1622

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STRENGTH AND COMPOSITION OF MILITARY FORCES DURING SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1639

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TROOPS QUARTERED IN BELFAST AND NEWRY BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1640

SOMALILAND OPERATIONS—ARREST OF A NATIVE SPY IN BERBERA.—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 1640

PROMOTION OF OFFICERS SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Massey-Mainwaring (Finsbury, Central); Answer Mr. Brodrick 1641

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—That they agree to the Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords to the "Education (England and Wales) Bill," and do not insist on their Amendment to which the Commons have disagreed; and they agree to the Consequential Amendment made by this House to the Bill 1641

ROYAL ASSENT COMMISSION.—Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and the Royal Assent was given to—

1. Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2) Act, 1902.
2. Patents Act, 1902.
3. Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902.
4. Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1902.
5. Osborne Estate Act, 1902.
6. Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902.
7. Mail Ships Act, 1902.
8. Militia and Yeomanry Act, 1902.
9. Education Act, 1902.
10. Metropolis Water Act, 1902.
11. Uganda Railway Act, 1902.
12. Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation Act, 1902 1642

And afterwards His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands).

After which the LORD CHANCELLOR said—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's Name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next."

End of the Third Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward VII.

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
SECOND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

SIXTEENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 5*th December*, 1902.

THE LORD GRANARD (E. GRANARD). Took the oath.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for Amendment of: of Church School Managers of Twineham; Bramber; Hinfield; Woodmancote; Shermanbury; and Albourn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition against: of United Free Church Presbytery of Aberdeen; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES—ANNUAL.

No. 374. Leeward Islands; Report for 1901-2. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BETTING.

Message from the Commons for Report, etc., of Select Committee. Ordered to be communicated accordingly.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

[SECOND READING—SECOND DAY'S DEBATE.

Order of the day for resuming the debate on the Amendment to the Motion for the Second Reading, read.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY): My Lords, in his able and comprehensive speech my noble friend the Lord President of the Council, who moved the Second Reading of this Bill, drew attention to the fact that the measure had occupied in another place no less than fifty-three days, forty-six of which were spent in discussing the details. Under these circumstances it will be admitted, I think, that not only the principles but also the details of the measure were fairly and fully discussed and decided by the House of Commons. But the noble Duke, in the course of his remarks, did not draw the attention of your Lordships to the fact that these principles and details were discussed at still greater length during the great agitation in the country between August and October. when Parliament was not sitting. During the recess, as your Lordships are aware, a vast number of meetings were held throughout the country, promoted by the opponents of the measure, who, if I may use the expression, flooded the country with denunciations not only of the Government, but of those who supported the Government with regard to the Bill. I do not for a moment say that it was unjustifiable for them to do so. All I mean to draw your Lordships' attention to is the extent to which the Bill and its details have been considered in the country, and how difficult it is for me, as the Minister of Education, to attempt on this important and interesting occasion to say anything new. I do not in the least object to the denunciations, and I do not object to the agitation. I allow that it was conducted by people who had a perfect right to act as they did, but I do not equally allow that the denunciations were of a sincere character. If they had been sincere, I think that during the campaign which has been directed against the Government we should have heard a few sentences uttered on behalf of the children, whose interests this Bill is supposed to safeguard. But we have heard no word uttered in the interest of the children. On the contrary, the Government have been denounced to such an extent that I used to think the agitation was got up in accordance with the words of Sir William Harcourt, who said at Ebbw Vale—

> "The Government are giving us a rallying cry in the Education Bill."

The noble Lord opposite, Lord Monkswell, laid great stress in the course of his speech last night on the effect that that agitation had produced. I have no doubt that at the time the agitation had a great effect, but I agree with the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Newcastle, who stated last night that the weight of the agitation had considerably lessened. Moreover, I think that the explanation of the detail and principle of the Bill which the Prime Minister gave at Manchester, combined with the recent exposition of the details of the measure in Parliament, have opened the eyes of the country as to the real merits of the Bill. I think the question is now for the first time really understood, and the country realises that this measure is brought forward, not with a political or Party object, but in order to raise the whole standard of education in this country. The country must now realise the absolute truth of the saying of one of our great Ministers—

> "You may fool all people sometimes; you may fool some people all times; but you cannot fool all people all times."

Therefore I venture to say that the agitation on which Lord Monkswell laid so much stress last night has been found out; because the people of this country now for the first time really understand the details of this great Bill.

The charge has often been made against His Majesty's Government that they were not justified in introducing such a measure as this because they had not received a mandate from the country. I should like to ask, when did the country ever issue a direct mandate to the Government to bring forward a particular measure? At the General Election of 1868, although the country issued a mandate to the Liberal Party to disestablish the Irish Church, no mandate was given to initiate the Education Bill of 1870. At the General Election of 1885 no mandate whatever was given to the Liberal Government to introduce the Home Rule Bill of 1886. I do not think noble Lords opposite will contradict me when I say that the Home Rule Bill came like a bombshell into the Liberal Party. I allow, though it is open to argument, that a certain mandate was given to introduce the Home Rule Bill of 1893; but I maintain that there was no mandate for the introduction of the financial proposals of the Government of that day. Therefore if noble Lords opposite and their supporters lay down a hard and fast rule that no measure is to be introduced unless it is a prominent plank in the platform at the previous General Election, we may find ourselves in a position in which no grievance could be remedied and no absolutely necessary reform accomplished unless it was a specific plank in the platform on which the election was fought. But I maintain that no such charge can be made in regard to this

The Marquess of Londonderry.

measure. I do not deny that the conclusion of the war and the future settlement of South Africa were the chief planks in the platform at the last General Election. But the country knew full well the views the Government entertained with regard to education, and it cannot be said that the Bill has been sprung upon the country. In these circumstances, His Majesty's Government, realising as they have done for five years past, that it was necessary to deal with the question, would have been unworthy of the confidence of the country had they not dealt with the question and endeavoured to place education on a sure foundation. In my opinion, and I am borne out by experts on the subject, this country is behind the age in education. Our present position is one of absolute chaos; and owing to the confusion which exists there is expense which to my mind could be obviated. This is not only the opinion of myself and of those with whom I am closely associated. Professor Armstrong, an educationist who is in no way biased, has declared that there are many people who are convinced that in not a few respects School Boards have been disastrous failures; and we need a wider organisation, penetrated with sounder and especially more practical views. Many gentlemen associated with noble Lords opposite have declared in public that the present system is unsatisfactory. It was the duty of the Government to remedy this state of things. The question of education could not be left alone. I consider that the present Government are the only parties able to deal with the question. I do not think that the noble Lords opposite, even if they occupied our position tomorrow, could deal satisfactorily with the question. The noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition dissents. I should like him to define the position he would take up if he occupied the position of the noble Duke behind me.

Mr. Bryce, an educational expert of whom I speak with the greatest respect and admiration, told us in the House of Commons that he had a scheme for dealing with education, but that owing to the despotic character of the measures of the Prime Minister he had not had an opportunity of producing it. But that need not prevent noble Lords opposite making known the manner in which the problem should be dealt with. Speaking at Derby a short time ago, the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition stated that if a Liberal Government were formed they would be ordered by their constituents, and would joyfully and willingly carry out the mandate, to reject what was wrong in this measure and to put education on a broad, liberal, and satisfactory basis. I hope we shall hear from noble Lords opposite what is the satisfactory basis on which they propose to put educational legislation. I should like to ask, in the first place, whether they would establish universal School Boards? The noble Earl shakes his head. I do not think they could do that. A great number of the followers of the noble Earl are ardent supporters of the voluntary school system, Do noble Lords opposite propose to allow the voluntary schools to be squeezed out of existence? Do they propose that the instruction of the two and a half million children who are at present being educated in voluntary schools should stop? Do they propose to lose the £840,000—this was the sum last year—subscribed by the promoters of voluntary schools and which has been used annually for the benefit of the ratepayers in the education of the children? And again, I should like to ask what they propose to do with regard to the buildings which at the present moment belong to the voluntary school managers, even supposing that the latter would agree to sell those buildings to the local authorities. What is their definition of area? They tell us that the county area is too large and that the parish area is too small. We have defined to the best of our ability a convenient area, and it would be interesting to know the definition of area of those who have criticised our proposal.

EARL SPENCER: I stated my view on the subject of the area last night.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I do not think the noble Earl told us his definition.

EARL SPENCER: Yes; I suggested that it should be smaller than the County Council area, larger than the

Parish Council, and on the lines of Rural District Councils. I have given that opinion time after time.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: But is that the opinion of the noble Earl's Party?

EARL SPENCER: I cannot say that.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: What I maintain is that the Party opposite, instead of producing a counter scheme, criticise the scheme of the Government. I do not profess to believe that the present measure is perfect, but I say that with the material on which we have had to work we have endeavoured to place the question of education on a sound and secure basis. We have endeavoured not to destroy the Act of 1870, but to remedy it and fill up the gaps. I deny that the Bill deserves to be denounced as a disgraceful measure. There are certain members belonging to the noble Earl's Party who do not share the extreme views which have been expressed on this subject, and the London School Board, a body with which I was once associated, and for which I have the greatest admiration, on June 12 last expressed their approval of the policy contained in the Bill. The resolution which they passed was in the following words:—

> "This Board approves the policy of the Education Bill recently introduced by the Government, whereby, while preserving the present right of voluntary schools to give denominational religious instruction, such schools are in other respects brought under the control of the same authority as other elementary schools, and will participate in the rate raised by such authority, and they ask that the same principle may be applied to London."

Well, my Lords, after such a resolution as that, passed by the greatest School Board in this country, are we justified in believing that the Bill we are asking your Lordships to accept is an infamous and monstrous Bill brought forward only for political purposes? I contend that on the rural side, School Board education has shown weaknesses. Mr. Bryce, on June 2, dwelt on the importance of establishing larger administrative areas for elementary education than those of the present rural School Boards. Mr. Trevelyan confessed on the same day that to improve the education in our villages we require to have more than local interest. "The wider the area of choice, the better the chance," said Mr. Trevelyan, "of getting good men."

In some places the School Board rates have gone up to a high figure, altogether beyond anything contemplated by Mr. Forster in 1870. In Buckinghamshire, for example, there is one School Board with a rate of 2s. 1d. in the £; in Cornwall there is a parish with a rate of 1s. 10d. in the £; and the School Board rate in two parishes in Durham is 1s. 9d. and 1s. 10d. in the £ respectively. In Essex we have one parish School Board with a rate of nearly 3s. in the £, and two other rural parishes with rates of 1s. 11d. and 2s. 3d. respectively. In the Forest of Dean there is a School Board rate of 2s. 6d. The rating question is also a serious one in the urban areas. For instance, West Ham has a School Board rate of nearly 2s. 2d. Walthamstow and Wanstead have also a rate of more than 1s. 8d., while the county borough of Oldham has a rate of 1s. 9d. Mr. Forster's utterances in 1870 enable us to realise how ideas have been modified with the enormous increase that has taken place in the rates since the Education Bill of that year was passed. In explaining the provisions of the Bill, Mr. Forster said that the rate would not exceed 3d. in the £, and that he did not believe that it would amount to anything like that in the majority of cases. Mr. Gladstone was also of opinion that the rate would not come to 3d. in the £. As to the School Boards in great towns, without wishing to say anything detrimental of them, I consider that their great energy has been directed rather to extending their range than to improving the quality of the education which they were created to supply. I do not in the least blame them. I would be the last person in the world to censure anybody for any superfluity of energy. But what has been the result? That energy has caused those School Boards to realise the need for higher education in their districts, and they have endeavoured to supply it. They have in this way gone beyond the functions originally entrusted to them and have acted illegally, and in order to indemnify them a transitory measure had to be passed through Parliament, under which they were enabled to carry on the duties they had undertaken, the cessation of which would have had disastrous results. The School Boards of these towns were giving technical instruction at the same time as the municipal authorities, with the result that the rates suffered from the inroads of both bodies. There has, accordingly, been gross overlapping and unnecessary expense, which the present Bill will obviate. In support of my statement as to overlapping and the unnecessary expense to which the ratepayers have been put, I will quote Dr. Macnamara, a Member of the other House, and an educationist, whom I am glad to think I can count as a friend of my own, though he is opposed to me politically. Dr. Macnamara said:—

> "What is the first thing this Bill does? It seeks to set up in each locality an education authority capable of controlling all grades of schools within the area. If this could be achieved on right lines a tremendous educational reform would have been effected."

After describing the present system, Dr. Macnamara went on to say—

> "What are the direct results of all this hotchpotch of local government? The first is a waste of a large amount of public money in the unnecessary and extravagant duplication of administrative machinery."

I ask the House whether we should have been justified in allowing that condition of things to remain without making some attempt to remedy it?

I pass on to the charges that have been brought against the Government. The two main charges are, firstly, that we are destroying School Boards; and, secondly, that we are giving undue benefits to voluntary schools. As to the destruction of School Boards, let me say at once that I have had experience of the great work done by the London School Board, of which work I have the sincerest admiration, and that I would not be favourable to a measure which would eliminate the services of the educationalists who have acted on such bodies. It has been stated that the new education authorities will lose a great deal by not having these experienced men at the head of affairs in the future. I repeat that if I thought the men connected with the School Boards in the large towns were to be debarred from taking a prominent part in the education of this country I should not be standing here to-night supporting a Bill which would have that result. If the noble Earl had closely examined the Bill he would have seen that sub-Section 2 (*d*) of Clause 18 lays great stress on the fac that the Government invite and welcome the co-operation of the leading members of School Boards. The sub-Section reads:

> "Every such scheme shall provide for the appointment, if desirable, of members of School Boards existing at the time of the passing of this Act as members of the first Committee."

EARL SPENCER: Yes, but they are to be co-opted.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: But I think I have answered the contention of the noble Earl that we were excluding those people on the present School Boards who have rendered such enormous service to the country, and whose services we shall welcome most heartily in the future. The present School Board system is not, I contend, entirely and truly representative. The cumulative vote does not guarantee the return of the best men, and it enables small minorities to elect men who are not fitted for the work. I had placed in my hand tonight particulars of a case in which, by means of the cumulative vote, an entirely unfit person has been elected on the School Board of a great county borough, and that the Board had been compelled for their own protection to approach the Board of Education for advice. This bears out my contention that the cumulative vote does not ensure the return to the School Boards of representative men. I do not think the School Board system, however much we may admire it now, would have been brought into existence by the Education Act of 1870 had there then been the bodies which exist now. I wish to emphasise that by quoting from the speech made by Mr. Forster in introducing this measure. Mr. Forster said—

> "The electoral body we have chosen for the towns is the Town Council. I do not think there can be much dispute upon that point. In the country we have taken the best body we can find—the select vestry where there is one, and the vestry where there is not a select vestry."

Mr. Forster admitted that in deciding between the union and the parish as the area of consideration there was a difficulty, and the reason why there was a difficulty was almost a disgrace to this country. Mr. Forster said—

> "We are behind almost every other civilised country, whether in America or on the Continent

of Europe, in respect of rural municipal organisations, and this difficulty meets us not only in connection with education but with many other questions affecting the people. The same difficulty applies to London."

It was in consequence of the weakness of the proposal as regards the parishes in London that a single Board for London had to be adopted, and for the sake of uniformity the same course was pursued in the towns. This proves, beyond all doubt, that Mr. Forster would not have created School Boards had there been the bodies which are in existence now. These municipal bodies had had various duties and responsibilities entrusted to them, among which education has already been included. The noble Lord opposite, Earl Spencer, in the course of his speech last night, seemed to consider that the duties we are imposing on these great bodies should not be given to them, because they have quite sufficient work to do already. The noble Earl said—

> "I think they have enough to do, and I think they ought not to have the work which belongs to the School Boards thrust upon them. I believe that will place them in great difficulties indeed."

EARL SPENCER: Hear, hear.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I am not competent to cross swords with the noble Earl, and I will leave to the noble Earl the late Liberal Prime Minister the task of answering my noble friend on that point. Lord Rosebery, in giving his impressions of this Bill a short time ago, described the supervision of education as a prerogative of the municipal Councils of incalculable importance, and said that if they had added to what they do already the task of supervising education they would be advancing by leaps and bounds that lofty position to which every patriot desired the great municipalities to attain. I am certain that the noble Earl below the gangway will make good tonight the remarks he then made, and therefore the noble Earl opposite must not blame me if I leave the defence of the Bill in that respect in the late Liberal Prime Minister's hands.

My noble friend Earl Spencer went on to criticise the Bill for placing extra duties on the County Councils, and stated that it would be perfectly impossible for them as the education authorities to control the whole of the education of the country. But we are supported on this point by the County Councils Association, which passed the following resolution on May 7, on the motion of the Chairman of the Surrey County Council:—

> "That, without expressing any opinion on the controversial questions raised by the Education Bill, the proposals contained in that Bill to place the control of all education in administrative counties under local educational authorities meet with the general approval of this Association, and that, as regards administrative counties, the County Councils, acting through committees, a majority of whom should be members of the Council, as the education authorities are well qualified, and prepared, if so requested by Parliament, to undertake the powers and duties imposed upon those authorities by the Bill."

Therefore, with regard to the boroughs I leave the noble Earl to the tender mercy of Lord Rosebery, and with regard to the counties to the tender mercy of the County Councils Association. I contend that an enormous gain will accrue from giving the controlling power over education in the locality to the borough or the County Council. There will be a great gain in efficiency by co-ordinating under one authority the dual authority now existing. Great economy in various ways will also result. My noble friend Viscount Goschen last night, in a speech which I am sure your Lordships will agree was a most valuable contribution to the debate, criticised the provision in reference to inspectors. The noble Viscount asked—

> "Were they to have inspectors appointed by the local authority?"

The noble Duke the Lord President of the Council having interposed a remark which is not reported, the noble Viscount said—

> "Oh, then they might inspect, and a pretty inspection that would be. They had already the Government inspectors and now there were to be two despots—a central despot and a local despot."

I would join with my noble friend in deprecating any expense that may be incurred by having too many inspectors, and I will do my utmost to reduce the cost of the inspectorate to the lowest degree compatible with the efficiency of its work. I would point out, however, that the Bill does not make it compulsory on the local authority to inspect the schools, and my great aim and object will be to induce the local authority to co-operate with the Board of Education in regard to these duties. I am most anxious to place the inspection of the Board of Education at the disposal of the local authority, and, by hearty co-operation between the two bodies, to reduce the expense in every possible way. I can assure my noble friend that his words will carry great weight with the Government, and, I think, also with the local authorities.

The second charge made against the Bill is that it unduly benefits the Voluntary schools to the detriment of other religious bodies. I deny that *in toto*. I should like to say a word in defence of these voluntary schools, of which I have always been an ardent supporter and admirer. I am an ardent admirer of them because without their aid there would have been no elementary education whatever in this country. Therefore I say that all educationists, no matter what their political or religious creed may be, owe a debt of gratitude to those who were responsible for the formation of the voluntary schools. It is not, perhaps, known that until 1833 the voluntary schools alone carried on the work of elementary education without State aid or assistance of any kind. There is another statement made with regard to voluntary schools. We are told by those who oppose the voluntary school system that the voluntary schools, as they exist at the present moment, are not owned wholly by their present proprietors, but are partly owned by the State. I admit that there is dual ownership, but it is an infinitesimal ownership on the part of the State. Out of the £25,000,000 which the 14,000 voluntary schools of the country are supposed to represent, the sum contributed by the State is only £1,845,000. Not only would the ratepayers suffer an enormous loss if they were called upon to provide the deficit which would arise if the voluntary schools were abolished, but there would in that case be the grossest betrayal of those who have been responsible for the education of the rising generation of the country. His Majesty's Government would have been unworthy of their position had they not endeavoured to maintain the efficiency of those schools. Did the Act of 1870 ever intend to abolish voluntary schools? It intended to do nothing of the sort. As to the intentions of that Act, Mr. Forster said in the course of his opening speech in introducing the measure—

> "Our object is to complete the voluntary system, to fill up gaps, sparing the public money when it can be done."

The original intention of the Act was to take every advantage of the voluntary schools. Mr. Gladstone, in withdrawing the rate-aid proposal, said:—

> "We must fulfil the engagements we have already entered into with the voluntary schools that in their competition with rate schools they shall receive some assistance towards lightening the burden of their expenditure."

In view of the result of the competition of the board schools on the voluntary schools, it should be borne in mind that the intention of the Act of 1870 was never that the voluntary schools should be abolished or squeezed out. It is said, but I cannot believe it, that certain sections of the community have declared that they will not pay rates in support of the voluntary schools. As I say, I can scarcely believe it; but have those who declare such an intention forgotten that since 1870 the promoters of the voluntary schools have not only maintained their own schools, but have ungrudgingly paid whatever rates the School Board in the district may have insisted upon? How, then, can these Nonconformists now refuse to assist the voluntary schools?

I now leave the whole question of elementary education, and turn to secondary education. We have been told that this measure confers no benefit on secondary education. I do not know if that statement is endorsed by noble Lords opposite, but, if it is, they will find that they are not supported in that view by one of the most able members of their Party, Sir Edward Grey, who said at Sheffield that he had no quarrel with that part of the Bill which dealt with higher education. So far as it lay in our power we have made proposals which will be to the advantage of secondary education. We have given powers of levying rates for this purpose to the county boroughs and the county authorities. We have definitely ear-marked what is known as the whisky money for education. I maintain also that the new elementary grants will indirectly benefit secondary education, because, by saving the rates, it enables the authorities to spend the money which it would otherwise have had to raise on secondary education. The local authority has also been given a free hand in the training of teachers. The noble Earl opposite, Earl Spencer, stated that the training colleges would be a charge on the rates, and expressed the opinion that the Exchequer should find the greater part of the money. I think the noble Earl cannot have realised the provisions of the Code. The Exchequer grant will be available for training colleges supported by county authorities and which fulfil the requirements, and therefore the county will be under no extra burden. It may be said that those who are trained in these institutions may go to other districts, but we hope that the county authorities will combine so as fitly to supply their own areas with thoroughly well trained teachers.

There are two other questions with regard to secondary education which I have been asked to answer by my noble friends Viscount Goschen and Lord Harris. The noble Viscount asked me what the Board of Education considered necessary as to provision for higher education, and Lord Harris inquired whether we were going to force the County Council to levy a rate. The Board of Education desire to lay down no hard and fast rule as to what is necessary in any question of higher education, as the type and the amount must vary with the needs of each area. With regard to the suggestion that the Board of Education may adopt a compulsory attitude, I would remind your Lordships that that Board is merely an advisory body. The first part of Clause 2, Part II., reads :—

> "The local education authority shall consider the educational needs of their area and take such steps as seem to them desirable, after consultation with the Board of Education."

The Board of Education are not bound to take up a compulsory attitude.

LORD HARRIS : Under Clause 10.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY : It is the same principle. The Board of Education are merely an advisory body. They have no power to compel my noble friend and his County Council to raise any rate, but if they choose to apply to them for advice it will be given. I do not believe it possible that the local authorities will refuse to administer the Act; to do so would be to relinquish great advantages, for they would no longer have control over any of the schools, whereas if they adopt the scheme they have complete control over secular education in every school. Neither do I share the view that the Nonconformists receive no benefit under the Bill. I have a very soft place in my heart for Nonconformists. I know the great work they have done, and I should be the last person to see an injustice inflicted upon them. I consider that they derive considerable advantages under this Bill, and I would instance the provision whereby pupil teacherships are open to them.

I have endeavoured in the speech I have made tonight to deal with the various charges that have been brought against this measure. I have endeavoured to prove to the House that His Majesty's Government have tried to deal honestly and justly with all classes and all creeds. When this Bill becomes law, as I have every reason to imagine it will, important duties and great responsibilities will devolve upon the Board over which I have the honour to preside. I know full well that I am unworthy of that position. I know full well that the noble Earl below the Gangway, Lord Rosebery, regards me as singularly unfitted for my post. He need not shake his head. I do not deny it. But I can say on behalf of myself and of those with whom I am associated, that we will do our utmost to discharge the duties and responsibilities which devolve upon us, not only efficiently but with absolute impartiality. We would welcome the co-operation and assistance of those local bodies on whom, in a minor degree, are also imposed new duties and responsibilities, and of all classes of the community who have the real interest of education at heart. I may be optimistic, I may be sanguine, but I have a strong conviction that this measure will deal satisfactorily for a long time to come with the question of education. I believe that the agitation which took place in the autumn, and to which I have alluded, will, beyond all doubt, calm down; and I believe that all those prognostications that were then made as to the ruin and disaster that must ensue if the Bill became law will not be fulfilled. I am confident that when the Bill becomes law we shall see all classes of the community, whether political or religious, striving to achieve the end we all wish to attain, and that the Nonconformist lion will work with the Anglican lamb with the simple desire to promote the welfare of the children of the country. If that should be so, I think the historian of the future will declare that in carrying this measure the Government has been endeavouring to live up to the well-known words of the poet—

"'Tis education forms for common mind,
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, may I venture to congratulate the noble Marquess who has just sat down on the ready and easy way in which he has fallen into the duties of his new office. For the bantling which lies exposed before us the noble Marquess is not responsible. We, on this side of the House, are not privileged to know who is its mother. We know it was brought into the world by the hands of the noble Duke and the Prime Minister, with the assistance of a conclave of episcopal matrons. Now that the infant has obtained some strength, it is to be handed over to the noble Marquess as the dry nurse, I suppose. He is discharging his duties to it pleasantly. It is satisfactory to see that he is pleased with the beauty and the perfections of the little creature, though to us it seems plain enough that it is neither very healthy nor likely to have a long life. The noble Marquess, in opening his speech, advanced three propositions, to all of which I must take some exception. The noble Marquess set out that there had been a superfluity of discussion in the House of Commons, and that the action of the Government in forcibly bringing that discussion to a close was justifiable. There I entirely differ from the noble Marquess. The Prime Minister himself admitted, when he proposed measures for closuring the debate in the House of Commons, that the discussion in that House had been of a singularly unobstructive and interesting character. I think also some blame is due to the Government in that they had not brought this measure forward at an earlier period of the session, but had wasted those more fruitful hours of the session on a futile attempt to reform the procedure of the House of Commons. I think also that members of the Government might have remembered that many of those speeches which were shut out from discussion in the House of Commons, both in Committee and on Report, were speeches connected with the finance of this Bill, which we in this House were precluded from discussing or amending. I think that that consideration also should have induced them to have extended to the utmost limit liberty to the Members of the House of Commons to discuss this Bill fully, and to deal with it in the most complete manner.

Again, the noble Marquess alleged a want of sincerity in the agitation against this Bill which has been going on in the country. I think that was hardly a worthy insinuation on his part. We who dispute the justice of this Bill are quite ready to admit the sincerity of those who bring it forward and support it. We believe—nay, more, we know—that more than half the people of this country are bitterly opposed to this Bill, and we believe and know that the opposition to the measure has in no way been wanting in sincerity, but has arisen from a deep sense of the injury that is likely to accrue from it. The noble Marquess suggested that there had been shown throughout this discussion a want of solicitude for education and the interests of the children. There, again, I join issue with him. I think that if he will study the debates that have taken place, he will find that both of those points have been kept well to the front in the speeches in the other House, and he will find that they have been constantly put forward in speeches that have been made by opponents of this measure on the public platform. The noble Marquess then went on to find fault with my noble friend beside me, and also with the Opposition, because we did not define our policy and say what we should be prepared to do supposing we were sitting on the Benches opposite. In that respect he rather echoed some remarks made by

Viscount Goschen, and a claim made by the noble Duke when he said, "Tell us what you would do with the voluntary schools?" Those three noble Lords have all had the same advantage as I have myself of experience in the other House, and I always thought it was an accepted maxim in the House of Commons that it was the duty of an Opposition to oppose and not to propose.

I am not going to tell noble Lords exactly what we should do if we were in their place. But I will go as far as this. I do not mind saying what I should have advised the Government to have done if I had been taken into their consultation. The late colleague of the noble Duke in a secondary capacity, Sir John Gorst, recently said in a public speech:—

> "There is no doubt that unless we intend the English people to become hewers of wood and drawers of water for the world, we must make them as well prepared for the work they have to do as are foreign workmen."

In that sentence you have confessed the lamentable fact that as things now are our people are being worse educated than those of other nations, let us say of Germany and America, who are our most serious commercial rivals. That is the state of things we have to meet. That state of things will not be met by some improvement in our elementary education. You will have to go further than that. What you have to do is to improve that higher education which follows on elementary education and goes step by step from the elementary school to the university. I have said that the course His Majesty's Government have pursued is not one that I should have advised. I should have advised them to have taken the great settlement of 1870 as the basis of their proposals. I would not have disturbed that compromise. I would have made it the foundation of my system, and on that system and that compromise I should have endeavoured to have built up a great edifice for higher education, which would have given prospect of attaining some of the objects that we desire. I think that would have been a reasonable course to take. After all, the compromise of 1870 is one that has been acted upon and has turned out fairly well. We have, in consequence of it, established a fair system of elementary education, a system which has gone on improving from year to year; and I think that in the course of those thirty years the very bodies for whom this Bill is to be a still further relief—I mean the voluntary schools of this country—have gained no small advantages. As the Bill of 1870 first stood they had to put down shilling for shilling, and pound for pound, the same amount of money that was given them from the Government grant. That is all changed now. First you had the fee grants, then the establishment of the 17s. 6d. limit, then you had the aid grants, next the relief of the voluntary schools from rates, and you have had the block grant. You have had many small bits of assistance from the Department itself, and I am confident that I am in no way over-estimating the relief given since 1870 at at least £1,500,000 annually. I should have thought the Government would have done well to have accomplished something more in the way of strengthening and improving this system, founded on compromise, and which had acted well, rather than throw the whole of our elementary education into the melting-pot and endeavour to build up the edifice again from the bottom. That has been the policy of His Majesty's Government and we shall see in the future what the result of it will be. They will in due course have their reward.

When I come to examine as far as I can from the proposals of this Bill what is likely to be the result, from an educational point of view, I cannot say that I see any sort of security that great educational improvement is likely to ensue. The Bill seems to me to give no security whatever for improvement in education, whether it be elementary or secondary. You undoubtedly set up an entirely new series of authorities, but I do not see that in this Bill there is any guarantee that those new authorities will use their powers in order to improve the elementary education of the country. This is the view of a man who, at any rate, has some great knowledge of education, Sir Joshua Fitch. He says—

> "This Bill does nothing to secure, or even to suggest, improvement in education or to secure for children better teaching or better opportunities for intellectual advancement. In so far as elementary education is affected the Bill affords little or no help. It gives no motives to managers, denominational or otherwise, to exert themselves or to raise the standard of education, but it offers new encouragement

> and aid to the denominational system and gives to that system, though it is less and less in favour of the nation as a whole, a fresh lease of life."

What guarantee have we for the manner in which these new authorities will use their power? Will they raise the standard of the voluntary schools to that of the present board schools, or will they bring down the average standard of the present board schools to that of the voluntary schools, or will they endeavour to bring them both to some mean between the two? I do not see that any indication is given in this Bill as to the method in which they are to discharge their duties.

I come to the secondary education part of the Bill. There, again, I say there is no sort of mandatory direction in the Clause referring to it which will compel the local education authority to take really effective steps. I know that the noble Duke disputed that last night. It is true they are told to consider the educational needs of their area, and to take such steps as seem to them desirable; but if they consider that steps are not desirable, there is no sentence within that Clause which gives any power to compel them to take any steps at all. I think that that view is borne out even by words that fell from noble Lords last night. The most rev. Prelate the Archbishop of Canterbury told us that so far as secondary education was concerned the Bill was very meagre. My noble friend Viscount Goschen described its intention as obscure, and said he would be glad to ascertain the goal which was being aimed at; whilst the Government's own chief supporter in the Press, *The Times*, only two mornings ago wrote of the Bill that it

> "Leaves the problems of secondary education in many respects almost untouched."

The noble Marquess has made a great point against us with regard to the question of mandate. For my own part, so far as the question of education is concerned, the matter of mandate weighs with me very little indeed. It may be that the Government had no mandate to deal with local government in the manner that they have. It may be that they had no mandate to take so much control over the expenditure of public money from the people as they have. But, so far as education is concerned, I think that the mandate lies on this Government, on any Government, to deal in the best way possible with the education of the people. I think that on both sides of the House we are agreed that education is a subject that we all must try our hands at. The noble Earl who sits below the Gangway, even in his Chesterfield speech, rightly declared that the subject of education was one of those subjects on which all Liberals should concentrate.

I have no fault to find with the Government dealing with the question of education. It is to the methods and to the principles which have been applied in this Bill that I take exception. I say that if the methods and principles which are to be found in this Bill are given effect to by an Act of Parliament, then this Bill will serve only to perpetuate and aggravate the greatest blot in our system, the greatest hindrance to efficiency—I mean, the sectarian character of a large proportion of our State-aided schools. The Established Church of England has always insisted on making the teaching of its own particular doctrines the paramount object of education. That has been their policy from an early period. The first report of the National Society says that

> "The national religion should be the foundation of a national education, and should be the first and chief thing taught to the poor according to the instructions provided by our Church for that purpose."

In the House of Commons Lord Hugh Cecil, in other words, laid down the same principle when he declaimed that every school should have two doors—the one through which the pupils should be forced by the compulsory powers of the State, and the other the one by which they should be sent out by the education given in the school into the Church. To this principle, I think, is largely due the present state of the schools in this country, for in order to secure the teaching of their own particular doctrine the English Established Church—and I find no fault with the work that it has done in this direction—have covered the country with schools of its own, and in these schools education has only too often been inefficient because, from lack of funds, there has been a difficulty in providing good teachers to sufficiently well equip the schools. It is essentially the sectarian difficulty which has prevented the nation from uniting as a body on a national system such as America possesses. There are in America something like 16,000,000 children attending schools provided by the State at a cost of something like £43,000,000 a year. I think that the sectarian spirit, encouraged by this system of voluntary schools, has been the real cause of most of our difficulty. It has divided people who ought to have been united. It has set men wrangling over doctrine when they ought to have been discussing education. It has sacrificed the education of our children to the rivalries of our Churches. I come from the north of the Tweed, and we there consider that we are far ahead of England in the matter of education. That may be so or not. We think so. And yet we are there, I think, fond of theological controversy. In spite of that, I believe that the reason to which can be attributed the success of our education in Scotland is that we have in our education been freed from sectarian controversies, and that we have been enabled to set up over the whole length and breadth of the country universal School Boards, under which children have been given thoroughly good elementary education.

As to the operation of this Bill, I wish to say a few words. What does the Bill do? First of all, it abolishes School Boards. The noble Marquess disputed that fact. I will refer him, in support of my contention, to a single line in the Bill at the top of page 3, which runs—

> "School Boards and School Attendance Committees shall be abolished."

Well, these Boards to whom education in England has been so greatly indebted are to go. I do not think that anybody will dispute the fact that the School Boards have greatly raised the level and the standard of education. I think those who support voluntary schools will admit that our School Board system has done a great deal to raise the ordinary standard of education. The School Boards are to be abolished, and what is to take their place? Not a body directly elected by the people for the purpose. That has been surely one of the best features of the School Board system. From the people, from the parents of the children who attend the schools, the School Boards have sprung, and to the people, and to the parents of those who attend the schools, the School Boards have been responsible, both in respect of their action and their expenditure. But under this Bill there is to be no more of that. The School Boards are to go, and in their place is to be set up a sort of three-headed authority which is to be kept in check by the Education Department. First, my Lords, you have an education authority consisting of the County and Borough Councils. I repeat what my noble friend beside me (Earl Spencer) said last night. Have not these County and Borough Councils sufficient to do already? Are not their hands fairly full with the work already entrusted to them? Do you not run the risk of over-loading with work men who are already rather hard pressed to discharge their duties, and who discharge them free of recompense, men of whom the best have many other occupations and much other business to attend to? Are you sure that these Councils as they are constituted have any particular knowledge of or aptitude for educational work?

And, again, taking the County Council, I ask how is it possible that a great County Council can make itself acquainted with all the needs and necessities of every small school within its area? It has been calculated that, supposing the County Council of the great West Riding of Yorkshire were to attempt to visit the elementary schools within its area, it would take it a year to go round and pay a single visit to each school. After all, I suppose the functions that will appertain to the County Council, as the education authority, will be little more than financial. It will have to raise the rate; it will have to distribute the rate and the Parliamentary grant; but the real work will, I suppose, fall on the education committees. Now, what am I to say about the formation of those education committees? It is claimed, I know, that they are really representative bodies. It is an extraordinary thing that noble Lords on the other side, including members of the Government, appear not to be able to distinguish the great difference there is between a directly elected body, and one that is indirectly elected, and which consists largely, if not entirely, of co-opted members. Apparently it is part of the policy of the present Government to substitute for directly elected bodies, not only for education but for other purposes, bodies of this nondescript and unrepresentative character. These committees are to consist, in the first instance, of a majority of members appointed by the Council, and, though that is the case, the Council, if it so pleases, may be able to name its entire number of members without including one of its own body. I do not mean to say that that will be the usual case, but it can do that if it so chooses. Then we come to the rest of the members of the education committee. In the Bill there is no direction whatever as to how these various men are to be chosen. Four or five different classes of members are suggested, but as to how they are to be chosen, what their comparative number is to be, who they are to represent, who is to nominate them, we have no sort of instruction whatever; and it is only as one of this class of co-opted persons that women find a place at all within the scheme of the Bill. Women deeply feel the fact that they are by this Bill excluded from direct election to one of the most important bodies in whose work a woman can take part. To these authorities is added yet another authority —the board of managers. In both sets of schools managers are to be appointed who are to perform certain equally undefined duties.

You have, then, this hierarchy of authorities. You have the education authority, you have the education committee, and you have the managers, and to keep them all in order you have the Education Department, which is weakened in its power of controlling the various authorities, because it has given up two important powers—namely, the power of declaring default and the power of compelling the local authorities to provide sufficient school places. What an opportunity for rivalries, jealousies, and difficulties between these various authorities! There is no definition of the respective duties of these authorities. It is said that the education authority is to be supreme, that the Education Committee is to control, and that the managers are to manage; but no attempt is made to define either what control is, or what management is. I do think that great confusion must ensue from administration under these authorities. To these various authorities are to be handed over, not only the present board schools, which hereafter will be known as provided schools, but also the voluntary schools. In future the support of both these classes of schools is to come on the rates. Heretofore the denominational schools have been supported partly by Government grant and partly by subscriptions from those interested in them. That is why in many places School Boards have not been set up. It has been said that it would be cheaper to maintain and to keep the voluntary schools. That has always been threatened. The population of a particular district have been told :—"If you set up a School Board, you will find it more expensive. You will have to pay rates, whereas now the school can be managed in a cheaper manner, and only those who choose to subscribe need have any expense put upon them." It seems to me that now arises a somewhat important question. You have taken from the voluntary subscribers and given to the ratepayers the charge of these schools. But who is to be responsible for the religious instruction given in them? Not the ratepayers, not the representatives of those who pay, not the Education Department as representative of the taxpayers, not the County or the Borough Council, not the Education Committee. The decision as to the management of the religious teaching, as to the appointment of teachers completely from top to bottom, as to the profession of faith of those teachers—all this is to be given to the present managers, to the clergy and to their friends, with this exception only, that to the foundation managers are to be added two managers appointed by the education committee. So that from this time henceforth the Church party are always to be in a majority on the management of these schools, and it will be in their power to secure that no Nonconformist, but only Church of England teachers, are appointed, and that the special doctrines of the Church of England are taught, and this though the school has become a public school supported by the people as a whole, Churchmen and Nonconformists alike.

It seems to me that here is the glaring injustice of the Bill. The people are to be rated for education which they do not control, and not only that, but for education which is sectarian in its character. It seems to me that these are violations of two great democratic principles. I hold, first, that the people should control that which they pay for; and, secondly, that rates levied from the people should not be applied to sectarian bodies. I heard it laid down from the other side of the House last night that representation should go with taxation. It seems to me an astonishing thing that one should have to dwell on so elementary a principle of government and to find that at this time of day in England this principle should be so gratuitously violated. We are rated for Town Councils and County Councils, but we have the control; we are rated for boards of guardians, but we have the control of those bodies; we have been rated for School Boards, but we have the control of those authorities. All these bodies are responsible to the ratepayers, but under this Bill we are to have schools for which we are rated, but over whose actual management we are to have little or no control. It is, indeed, true that the education authorities are to raise the money, but it is the education committees and the managers who will have the spending of it, and over their action we have no control whatever. Let me look for a moment at the second principle violated, which is that rates levied upon the people should not be applied to sectarian objects. I thought that that was a ground on which the battle had been fought to a finish long ago. Nonconformists of two or three generations ago declared that they would not pay Church rates. They objected, and in support of that contention some of them suffered loss of goods and some of them were sent to prison. By their sacrifices Church rates were abolished, and yet here we are going to have renewed this system which we had thought had gone for good. Now, forsooth, men of all creeds and no creeds are to be rated for the teaching of the dogmas of a particular Church. The Church of England has in this country some 13,000 schools in which Church doctrines are taught. I do not for a moment dispute the right of the Church to teach those doctrines. They have the entire right to do so, but they should teach them at their own expense. Under this Bill it is proposed that they should do so at our expense. That is a proposition which I for my part cannot accept, and it is one which I do not believe will be accepted by the majority of the country. It is, I think, a somewhat significant thing—a thing which deserves some consideration—that in this House, which contains two Estates of the Realm, there should be found perhaps only fifteen or twenty men who voice the opinion which is that of the majority of the people of the country.

The noble Duke and the Members of the Government have a distinguished colleague who is now on his way as a messenger of peace to the other side of the world. I say, God speed him on that errand. Perhaps his view may have some influence on the Government, even though ours will have but little. I should like just to quote a sentence from the speech he made in Birmingham after the passage of the Act of 1870. Mr. Chamberlain then said—

> "If the resolutions of the School Board are carried into effect, numbers of children now enjoying the luxury of a sectarian education at the expense of the private supporters of denominational schools will enjoy that luxury at the expense of the ratepayers. This iniquity I and my colleagues have resisted, and will continue to resist, holding the opinion that in schools supported by the rates denominationalists have no right to interfere, and that they must not be allowed to meddle in the concerns of the kingdom in which they had no jurisdiction."

I think those words of Mr. Chamberlain are extremely apposite now, and that they might well be taken into consideration by noble Lords opposite. When he introduced this Bill the Prime Minister claimed that it would secure co-ordination of educational authorities, that it would secure popular control, that it would end the religious difficulty. My Lords, these are high aims and worthy aspirations, but I think that from the debates that have taken place in Parliament and the discussions outside, it is very clear that there is little likelihood of those aspirations being realised. It is because I think that these aspirations will not be realised, because I think that this Bill will but accentuate and increase difficulties already existing, that I, for my part, shall cheerfully vote against the Second Reading with the full confidence that though, as is certain, the Bill will become law, its life will not be a long one, and that it will be the duty of my noble friend beside me, and those who think with him, at the very first opportunity to bring in a measure which will restore to the people of this country the control of education and also religious equality.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I can promise your Lordships that I shall not detain you for more than a few moments, for I have no intention of entering upon the general discussion of the substance of this Bill. But great doubt has been expressed by my noble friend who moved the rejection of the Bill, and also by the noble Lord who has just spoken, whether the County Councils of England and Wales are the proper authorities for carrying the Bill into effect. On that question, perhaps, I may claim some right to speak, because I am chairman of a County Council and have the honour to be the Deputy-Chairman of the County Councils Association, upon which body every County Council in England and Wales is represented. That Association has very carefully considered the Bill and the functions which, under it, the County Councils will have to perform. As the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education has already informed your Lordships, the County Councils Association met in May last and came to the conclusion that County Councils were acting through committees (a majority of whom should be members of the Council) as the education authorities, well qualified and prepared, if so requested by Parliament, to undertake the powers and duties imposed upon these authorities by the Bill. I venture to think, with regard to the doubts expressed by noble Lords on this subject, that the County Councils are better able to give an authoritative reply on this statement than anyone else. The County Councils Association also expressed unqualified approbation of those portions of the Bill which refer to secondary and technical education. For the first Resolution thirty representatives voted in favour and only seven against, and among the former was the representative of the County Council to which my noble friend Earl Spencer belongs. Objection has been taken on the ground that the County Councils are to work through committees. I venture to think that no one who is acquainted with the way in which County Councils perform their duties would for a moment imagine that they could work in any other way. It is the course they adopt with respect to the whole of their business. An important measure of local government was passed some time ago which had to be worked by the County Councils through a most important committee. That committee sent down its members who made local inquiries all over the county, and carried out the work under that Act with perfect satisfaction to the public. It has been urged that experts will be precluded from sitting on these committees. I am surprised to hear that objection raised by anyone who is acquainted with the needs of education. The power of adding experts to education committees exists at present under the Technical Instruction Act, and it seems to me a most valuable power. County Councils object to an education committee being constituted which should not be composed of a majority of members of the County Council. That view was adopted by the Government, and an alteration was made in the Bill which provides that, except in some very exceptional cases, the majority of the members on the education committee shall be members of the Council. My noble friend Lord Tweedmouth said it was impossible for the County Council to know all about the primary schools in the counties. Of course it is impossible. How is any big work ever done in this country except by sub-dividing it? The work of the primary schools will be done by delegating powers from the education committee. A provision has been inserted in this Bill for the specific purpose of giving the education committees power to deal with matters in that way. Having given my best attention to the subject, and having heard the discussion between the representatives of the County Councils of the whole of England, I can only say that the County Councils are grateful to the Government for the manner in which they have met many suggestions which those Councils considered of importance with regard to the details of the Bill. Personally, although the matter is undoubtedly a difficult one, I look forward with great confidence to the duties which are imposed by this Bill on the County Councils being adequately and properly performed.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: My Lords, I listened with special attention to the speech of my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth, who raised a warm feeling of interest in the breasts of a good many of us when he told us that he was about to state what mode he would have adopted in the difficult circumstances in which we stand educationally had he been called upon to construct an Education Bill. When we waited to hear what the form of the Bill would in that case have been, all that we learnt was that it would have been one to carry out in its completeness the principles laid down in the Act of 1870. I venture to believe that this Bill very nearly fulfils the idea which the noble Lord in those few words sketched by carrying out in the altered circumstances of the day the very lines laid down by Mr. Forster and his colleagues in 1870. Last night the noble Earl who moved the rejection of the Bill said that the bishops —I do not know why the bishops were thus singled out—were opposing "a gigantic weight of opinion in the country rooted in conscientious conviction." I am not prepared to dispute the truth of the statement that there is a body of vehement opinion rooted in conscientious conviction, but I am not sure that the word "gigantic" is the one I should have used. But I let that pass. I would ask your Lordships for a moment to inquire whether that weight of opinion is grounded as a matter, of fact on a reasonable knowledge of the Bill as it stands, and whether it is a spontaneous expression of public opinion, or whether we can attribute to it a special character and a special origin? No one, I believe, who has studied the matter, will deny that the opposition to the Bill, honest and straightforward as it is, is in the main a Nonconformist opposition. I am not in the least derogating from its importance on that account, but I think it is beyond question that the educational experts who are free from prejudices of distracting and disturbing kind, and who have expressed an opinion on the Bill, are, generally speaking, in an overwhelming preponderance on the side of the measure. Of course there are some educationists who oppose it, but I am speaking of the preponderant body of expert opinion. There is, however, a strong and united opposition to the Bill in Nonconformist quarters, and it is not a whit the less entitled to be listened to on that account. On the contrary, it is, in my judgment, of all the more weight because it is founded beyond question upon deep religious sentiment, and religious sentiment is one of the most important factors in the formation of effective opinions. But when we go further and ask how that opinion has reached its present head, I think we find reason to give us pause.

It is, of necessity, impossible for large numbers of people in the country to understand an intricate and complex Bill like this without someone to explain it to them, and in such a case trust is naturally reposed in some one who, from his position and personal character, is entitled to be listened to. There can be no question that the man who in this country has come forward to take that position among Nonconformists has been that trusted leader, that great religious guide to many people, Dr. Clifford, of whom I do not wish to say a single disrespectful word. The letters of Dr. Clifford, published originally in the *Daily News*, and republished as a pamphlet, have undoubtedly been a leading factor in the formation of that hostile public opinion which we are told is a gigantic force. He has endeavoured to put the characteristics of the Bill in a brief categorical form, which could be understood by everybody. Let me give an example of what I mean. When he uses terms which virtually tell his readers that the board schools are practically swept away, it would have seemed to me that he was indulging in purely fanciful rhetoric but from the fact that, last night, the noble and learned Lord, Lord Coleridge, with no less weight than belongs to one of His Majesty's Counsel learned in the law, practically adopted the same words. My Lords, I say unhesitatingly that, put in that form the words are the wildest distortion of the provisions of the Bill, and are actually, though I do not say intentionally, misleading to the public to whom they are addressed. The pamphlet again makes specific statements to the effect that the Bill, both in voluntary and in board schools, abolishes compulsory education, and it categorically states (I am here quoting its very words) that "it closes the evening schools." Is it a fair mode of dealing with the country, which cannot understand an intricate subject such as this Bill, to make categorical statements so preposterous as that? Can we be surprised that there should be a large force of public opinion roused to white heat against a measure which is supposed to be productive of such results? But that is not all. I touch, with some diffidence, on a subject more sacred in its character and more difficult to handle. A few months ago the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches put forth a circular which I hold in my hand, expressly requesting all the Nonconformist ministers to unite their congregations in prayer on the subject. A more laudable, natural, and proper direction to emanate from this Council I cannot imagine, provided that what is meant is that the process shall be followed which we in this House, and the Members of the other House, follow every day, of invoking the Divine blessing on those who are entrusted with the most difficult work of legislation. But this circular goes on to say that the prayer should be directed specifically against what is described as "the perpetration of a retrograde step in regard to national education, and a cruel injustice to the Free Churches of our land." I venture to ask, with confidence, what noble Lords opposite would have said had the Bench of Bishops put forward a request that in the Churches throughout the country, prayer should be offered for the distinct and definite passing of particular Clauses of this Bill? Legitimately and properly we should have been condemned on every hand for abusing the position we hold, and I venture to say that what would have been true of us is no less true of those who have acted on the opposite side in the manner I have described. It is not, therefore, surprising that there should have been a great outburst of public sentiment on this subject among the section of the people to whom these appeals were made.

For a long time it was felt by those of us who, generally speaking, are in favour of this measure that we would not act wisely in endeavouring by public meetings to counteract what was being done on the other side, and that it would be better to leave the Bill to be understood, and to allow the country to weigh the matter quietly for itself; but after a time it was obvious that something else was needed, and wherever the endeavour has been made to circulate information which at least endeavours to be absolutely impartial and fair by those who take a different view of the question, the tide has turned and the state of public opinion is very different from what it was some time ago. I will give a concrete example. The largest town in my diocese is the town of Portsmouth, where the schools are almost entirely board schools. The pamphlet containing the letters of Dr. Clifford had an immense circulation and the effect produced was very great indeed. For a long time we left the matter alone, but ultimately those who regard the Bill with favour issued a series of leaflets and then called a public meeting in the Town Hall. In that town, which is full of board schools, and in which the voluntary schools are few and far between, the huge town hall was crowded before the meeting began, and enthusiastic resolutions were carried in favour of the Bill. That is no solitary instance of what is happening. I believe that as soon as the measure is properly understood, we shall find that that "gigantic" force of opinion to which the noble Earl has referred will dwindle away.

I pass from that to the need for the measure as a whole. It has been taken for granted more or less I think on both sides of the controversy by those who have no very special knowledge of the intricacies of the matter that the rural schools in England are at present exceedingly bad. I venture absolutely to dispute that proposition. Our rural schools are behindhand in their appliances, in their staffing, and in the amount of the salaries paid to the teachers, and frequently in the character of the school buildings, and it would be grossly unfair, in my judgment, to the teachers and to the children, to allow them to continue in that condition; but if the Government had acted in the way suggested by some, and had met the difficulty by simply establishing universal School Boards throughout the country, I venture to think they would have made the matter worse instead of better. Inefficient as some of our rural schools are, the most inefficient are those which are under the control of the School Boards. But I want to ask, Are we right in supposing that the existing rural schools are as black as they are painted? I should not expect your Lordships to accept my opinion on the character of those schools. I know them pretty thoroughly. I seldom visit any country parish without visiting the school, and I have therefore a personal acquaintance with hundreds of them. But I do not ask you to take my own evidence. What I have done has been to look carefully at the reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools for the past year, to see exactly what those who are best qualified to speak have to say on the subject; and I would venture to trouble your Lordships with two extracts only. One is contained in the Report of His Majesty's Inspector for the East Central Division of England, the Rev. C. D. Du Port, who incorporates in his Report the reports of the Inspectors under him. I take the following sentence from the Report:—

> "Because country teachers are indifferently paid, and because country managers find it difficult to make both ends meet, therefore it is tacitly argued that country schools must needs be inefficient. They are nothing of the sort. . . . Apart from the difficulty of providing experienced teachers for small classes of infants, the rural schools are quite as good as the urban schools."

The Inspector refers to the fact that if isolation is a drawback to the country teacher, it is also in some respects a distinct advantage. He says:—

> "His school is always an organic whole and never degenerates, as the large urban school, sometimes does, into a mere bundle of classes. Then, again, successful town schools are frequently cast in one mould; whereas the good village school has a character and an individuality of its own which it has developed in response to the 'plastic stress" of a vigorous and independent mind.'

I turn from that to another part of England, purposely taking places that are far from one another. I read in the Report

The Lord Bishop of Winchester.

of the Inspector for Cumberland, Westmorland, and the rural parts of Lancashire that:

> "In the voluntary schools the assistants are as a rule, of poor qualifications, but the work often reaches as good a level as in schools which have on paper a far superior staff. This may be in part due to the teachers being treated more as individuals and less as pawns, but the main credit of it must be given to the headmasters of these schools, many of whom display extraordinary ability and energy. The strain involved in producing such excellence as they do must be well-nigh intolerable; but they do produce it very often."

Those, my Lords, are testimonies from His Majesty's Inspectors as to the character of our rural schools. I say unhesitatingly that the credit for this is due, in the first place, to the teachers who, in isolated positions and labouring under extreme financial and other drawbacks, evince a magnificent devotion, and are content to accept lower salaries than they could get elsewhere, rather than abandon the interests of the rural schools. In the second place, I venture to say that the others upon whom the credit rests are the clergy, in whom, for the last hundred years or more, the care for education in our rural districts has been practically centred.

I happened, recently, to find by accident a Report of a Committee of the Quarter Sessions of Hampshire upon "The State of the Poor," presented at the Midsummer Session at Winchester more than a hundred years ago. At that time day schools were few and far between. Such education as was given at all to the children in rural districts was mainly given in the Sunday schools, and the committee of Magistrates, who looked into the subject, stared in a somewhat startled and almost frightened way at the progress, infinitesimal as it seems to us, that was then being made educationally among the people. The committee regarded the endeavour with the sort of puzzled caution with which a flock of sheep stares at a strange thing in the field. They deprecated—I quote their own words—

> "That supposed learning, that zeal beyond knowledge, which tends to enthusiasm."

And they went on to say—

> "It is with limitation only that schools for the poor are beneficial. So far as they have any tendency to raise an idea of scholarship, to make those who attend them conceive they are scholars, and thence to place them in their own conceit above common labour, they become prejudicial instead of serviceable to the community."

That was the view taken by the laity of that period of the character and need of rural education, and I mention it to show your Lordships the kind of difficulties which the clergy had to contend with in initiating the schools which have now reached the excellent level I have described. I am almost afraid to call attention to this fact that that Report is signed by the ancestors of some of your Lordships. The people who had to combat such views as to education in the rural districts were the clergy. They were the only people who, during the greater part of the century that has closed, really put their backs into it and cared about the promotion of rural education. They were believers in it when other people were not, and they are believers in it today. It is as educationalists, not as clerics, that they have thrown themselves into the work, although, of course, they have always, both by word and act, laid emphasis upon the foremost place which religious teaching must take as the basis for the formation of character.

In urban districts, also, the credit for educational progress, speaking generally, is due though of course in a less exclusive degree to the clergy. In the debates of the last few months it has not been unusual to hear the fact that a great many clergy are sitting on School Boards cited as evidence that the School Boards are not hostile to the clergy—a view which the clergy are inaccurately supposed to take. Undoubtedly the system which many of the clergy advocate in their voluntary schools is one which certain members of the School Boards are apt to discredit; but I have never heard the other charge made, and I was startled to hear it alluded to in Parliament the other day as something that we were supposed to have charged School Boards with. The conclusion that I will draw, however, is that the clergy are found to be the best leaders and guides in the education that is carried on by our School Boards. It is no small fact, surely, that the School Boards of such places as Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Salford, and Sheffield, to take only a few instances. all have clergymen as their chairmen, It is, therefore, utterly monstrous to suggest that the clergy as such are engaged in promoting sectarian interests alone in elementary schools and not thinking of education as a whole. If that was so, would they have been appointed in these leading towns as chairmen of the School Boards? It is because they are educationists of the first order that they stand where they do; to make out that they are obscurantists is, to my mind, simply to contradict the facts of history and the evidence that is before our eyes at this moment.

The three main objections advanced against the Bill are that its idea is to retain denominational tests, that it gives control without adequate popular representation, and that it uses the rates for denominational teaching. Let me deal with these points one by one. I yield to no man in my dislike to denominational tests as a bar to any position of responsibility or service in the State which deals simply with secular matters. But it does seem to me the merest pedantry not to admit that to that general rule there must be an exception with regard to the people whose duty it is going to be to give religious instruction. You are bound to find out whether the person who is going to give such instruction is fit to give it. I have frequently borne testimony to the admirable religious teaching that is given in the schools of the London School Board and of many other of the large School Boards, but why is it that in these schools the religious instruction is so well given? It is because the teachers have all practically been trained in religious colleges in which one of the foremost tasks undertaken is the preparation of men and women to give religious education to little children. Under this Bill we are going, quite rightly, to provide other and more extensive means for the training of our future masters and mistresses, but in so far as that provision is made by the State it will be of a secular character, and to that extent the result will be that in a few years hence you will be obliged to choose those who will be entrusted with the giving of religious teaching from people who have not had the advantage the teachers of today have had. If you choose a master to teach drawing, you do not think it sufficient that he should express his willingness to teach it. You test his qualifications. You are bound to do the same before you assign to him the most difficult, by common consent, of all a schoolmaster's duties, the teaching adequately and well of the truths of religion. Therefore I protest against the notion that an inquiry into the qualification of a teacher to give, conscientiously and because he believes them, the truths of our religion, however simply, to little children, is a violation of any fundamental principle.

In the next place, it is alleged against this Bill that control is being given without adequate popular representation. That all depends upon what is meant by control. If I understand the Bill rightly, there will be no necessity whatever for a single penny passing through the hands of any other person than those who are either popularly elected themselves or appointed by those who are popularly elected. But no doubt I shall be told that the real difficulty lies in the fact that the appointment of the teacher rests with those who are, to the extent of two-thirds, not popularly elected. Yes; but it is made under the control of the whole body, under the absolute control and guidance, as regards educational efficiency, of the popularly elected body which stands behind. What practically will happen is this, that the managers—one-third from outside, and two-thirds from inside—will have the right of nominating a teacher from among those who are approved as competent by the education authority. If that is taking the control out of the hands of those who raise the money, I do not know what control means. It may still be said that it is an unfair arrangement, that there ought not to be any preponderating voice given to the denominational managers in the appointment of the teacher. Well, on that point I should like to go back five years, when the atmosphere was a little clearer with regard to this particular controversy, and when politicians of all kinds were able to look at the matter in a calmer way than they can today. I turn to a speech delivered five years ago by Mr. Asquith at Rochdale, and I should like to read what he said:—

> "I have never gone the length of thinking or of saying, nor, I believe, have any of my friends, that the principle of popular control ought to be carried to the length of subverting the denominational character of the schools. I think that would be an unfair thing, an unjust thing; that it would, in effect, disestablish the denominational character of the schools, and transform them, and practically put them on the same footing as the board schools of the country. I agree that, if you are to have a denominational system then the particular tenets of the particular faith must be taught, and that those tenets may be taught in good faith, with enthusiasm and with zeal, it is not unnatural that the managers of those schools should claim to have a preponderating voice in the choice of teachers."

That was the view taken at a calmer time by one of the foremost leaders of those who are at present opposing the Bill of the Government.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Who was maintaining the schools then?

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: The criticism of the noble Earl is a most fair and reasonable one. I am only using the quotation to prove one point in my argument. What we are told by so clear-headed an educationist as Mr. Asquith is that if you are to maintain denominational schools at all it is not unreasonable that the managers of those schools should claim to have a preponderating voice in the choice of the teachers; provided you maintain denominational schools at all you are not to make the appointment of the teachers depend upon those who are not preponderatingly belonging to the denomination. I admit that under the present Bill a change takes place as regards the payment for the schools. All I use the quotation for is to press this point; he admits that if a denominational system is to go on at all you must leave the preponderating voice in the appointment of teachers to the denominational managers. Is not that exactly what this Bill is practically doing? It leaves, not the entire voice, not the complete control, but the preponderating voice in the appointment of teachers, to those who belong to the denomination. There I am content to leave that point at present. But there is one little point that I should like to dwell upon. Some noble Lords who sit on the opposite side of the House have the advantage—I should say the high privilege—of being members of the London County Council; and one of them, who I believe is to address us tonight, the Earl of Rosebery, among the many distinguished offices he has held, has filled none of them more splendidly than the chairmanship of the London County Council. There is great talk about the remoteness of the control given to the popularly-elected authority over the appointment of teachers. Is it remembered how remote is the popular control in the appointment of teachers by the different technical education boards under the London County Council? There are contributions from the City Companies and from other bodies, enabling them to obtain, I will not say a preponderating, but a large voice in the appointment of teachers. It is in this way that they practically work in the splendid way they have worked their Polytechnics and other institutions. I do not wish to make too much of that point, but it does seem to me to be worth bearing in mind when we hear of the distance between the teachers who are actually at work and those who have the ultimate control of the work.

Then with regard to the objections raised to the whole principle—this fundamental principle, as the noble Lord said—of giving rate aid for denominational schools. The position of those who take that point is to me bewildering in the extreme. I think I am not wrong in saying that in the early days of the Parliamentary debates of the last few months, again and again it was said that, however important might be the question of who the ultimate authority was, there was one thing far more important, and that was the fundamental principle that rate aid ought not under any circumstances whatever to be given for denominational teaching. I find that one of the leaders of the opposition to this Bill, Mr. Lloyd-George, said early in the debates—

> "I agree that the question of the authority (he is speaking of representation and the rates) is not really the most important part of the Bill. There is only one important question that divides us, that of rate-aid for teaching religion of which a large portion of the ratepayers do not approve. That is the whole question so far as we are concerned."

My Lords, I call attention to those words. I ask you to look on a few months, and you will find these same people telling us that they would be perfectly satisfied if they had the Scotch system established in England tomorrow. The whole essence of the Scotch system is the giving of rate aid to denominational education; and the people who told us a few months ago that the objection to the use of rates for denominational education was vital, have now boxed the compass and tell us that the process they desire to see followed is one that has rate aid for denominational schools as its very backbone and essence. My Lords, I dwell upon that not because I want to taunt those who have so spoken with inconsistency; it may be that they are inconsistent, but that is not the point that I want to dwell upon. It is this: that it is the best evidence we can have of the difficulty which they find in formulating any other scheme. First they are forced to one conclusion as to the fundamental principle; then they are forced to go right round the compass until they get to the opposite principle in order to justify their opposition to the Bill now before the country. I refer to it simply to show that they have practically no alternative scheme which can hold the field against this scheme now before your Lordships' House. I venture to think that to that extent at least the argument is not an unimportant one.

My Lords, I have, I am afraid, detained your Lordships too long. I have spoken as an educationist rather than as an ecclesiastic. I could say much if it were necessary on the constructive side of the Bill that is before us, but the introduction of the measure last night by the noble Lord, and the speech of the President of the Education Board to-night, have dealt so fully with that subject that I do not propose to dwell upon it further. I am not prepared to say that in every particular I think this Bill the best that could have been devised. I should like to have seen it different in a good many ways. Indeed, I doubt whether any single Member of your Lordships' House (including even the authors of the Bill) is prepared to say that. The best scheme that could be devised we each of us have no doubt in our own minds, and it will doubtless differ from the present Bill. But this is an honest, straightforward, and courageous endeavour to grapple with a great and difficult problem in a way which will best meet the conflicting interests which anyone who has to deal with this subject has to meet. I confess I am not alarmed by the prognostications of failure which have been rife both inside and outside Parliament. I look back and find how in 1870 no less a politician than John Bright, and others with him, told us that that Bill was doomed to speedy failure, whereas it is now regarded as practically the palladium of the liberties of those who desire educational progress. Then I pass on to the Bill of 1889. Your Lordships all remember how in 1889 powers were given to the County Councils to help technical education. We were told again and again that none of the Councils would use the Bill—that the last thing they would do would be to spend that money on educational purposes. My Lords, we know the County Councils better now. In a very large degree, and in a constantly increasing degree, these funds have been used as they were intended to be used. That again, therefore, prevents my being alarmed at the prognostications and fears with regard to the future of this Bill. Five years ago, when the Voluntary Schools Association Bill was passed, we were told that these associations were bound to fail, and that the plan would lead to ceaseless wrangles among those who were trying to get money for individual schools. Yet nothing of the sort has happened, and the result of those associations has been to an enormous degree to help forward the work of rural schools in practically every county in England. The term "co-ordination" has received a very great deal of ridicule in this House and elsewhere. It has been spoken of as a kind of mysterious "Mesapotamia," which means nothing and serves no good purpose. I believe that to be absolutely fallacious. No principle of this Bill is more absolutely certain to work out well and successfully than the co-ordination which must result where it is properly worked as regards every step in our educational system. Nothing is so good in these matters as a concrete instance. I live hard by the little town of Farnham. We have a population, partly urban and partly rural, of 12,000. We have five board schools and four voluntary schools; we have a grammar school for boys and a secondary school for girls; we have a pupil teachers' Centre, and we have all sorts of evening classes. They are under five different authorities, and they are receiving grants (quite apart from voluntary subscriptions) from three totally different sources. Anything more puzzling and more extravagant than such a complicated system could hardly be conceived. Now already, before the Bill is passed we are seeing our way to the complete co-ordination of that system, bringing the primary and secondary organisation into one united whole, the secondary schools being able to be supported by the same authority, and the teachers in the secondary schools being available when necessary for scientific and other subjects in elementary schools, because there will be the same paymaster. In that, and many other ways, I am certain that before many years have passed we shall find that the results of the measure will be so good as will startle those who have given it such strenuous opposition.

My Lords, I have said all I have to say, but I am charged with one duty that I desire to perform before I sit down. Your Lordships listened last night with the attention always due, but due in a special sense last night, to the most rev. Primate. We do not know whether to admire more the weighty and pathetic speech that he delivered, or the courage with which he delivered it in the face of obvious physical difficulties. It is not a small thing that at the head of the Church of England, which has necessarily so much to do with the organisation of education, we should have one who, for a life of more than fourscore years, has been from the outset in the forefront of every movement of educational progress and reform. More than fifty years ago Mr. Temple, as he then was, was a prominent figure in educational work, and he is in the forefront of that work still. I think that is a record which will be difficult to match in the history of educational work, whether in the Church or in the civil community. I had the privilege this morning of speaking to the Archbishop upon the subject of this Bill and of his speech last night, and he desired me to say this—that had not physical weakness prevented, he desired to have concluded his speech by a very earnest appeal to all those whom his words might reach—the managers, clerical and lay alike, and all those who are interested in the voluntary schools which are still connected with the Church—that it should be one of their primary and foremost efforts when this Bill becomes law to see that no hardship is inflicted thereby upon Nonconformists. We have all along desired—those who take a lead in Church matters—that facilities of every kind should be given for the removal of every possible Nonconformist grievance that is removable in our parishes. But the most rev. Primate desired that the last words of his speech should be such an appeal on behalf of those who, while not belonging to our Church, are as entitled to their religious convictions as any of ourselves, any of your Lordships, any of those who are sending their children to a Church school, being themselves Churchmen; and to beg that every possible endeavour might be made by us who are responsible in these schools for removing difficulties wherever that can possibly be done. My Lords, we have long expressed such a desire—we desire it still; and I for one honestly believe that when the controversies which are raising the present dust and turmoil are overpast, we shall be found—Nonconformist and Churchman alike—under the provisions of this measure, co-operating in the task of working out the far-reaching and beneficent scheme which I firmly believe the whole country will before long determinedly and hopefully take in hand.

*LORD REAY: My Lords, I am sure your Lordships generally will have sympathised with the very pathetic appeal conveyed to us from the most rev. Prelate by the right rev. Prelate who has just sat down.

My Lords, what is the problem with which the Government intended to deal in this Bill? In the first place, it was to organise secondary education; in the next place, to prevent overlapping, to co-ordinate; further to improve the financial condition of voluntary schools, and finally to increase the efficiency of schools in rural districts. As regards secondary education, the Bill contains no compulsory Clause imposing on the local education authority the duty to make provision for secondary education. It gives no power to the Board of Education to create that supply. It is merely permissive. There are no guarantees whatever that anything will be done either for the improvement of the higher technological instruction or for higher education on modern lines. The Board of Education acts, as the noble Marquis said tonight, in a merely consultative capacity. Inspection is not provided for, except the voluntary inspection under the Act of 1899; neither the representation of the local education authority on the governing bodies of assisted schools, nor the examination of inspected schools, with a view to leaving certificates, of which we in Scotland receive all the benefit at present; schools conducted for private profit are not excluded; and no audit is provided for schools which receive assistance. It was said tonight that some one on this side had fully approved of these proposals. I suppose the fact is that the Gentleman referred to did not quarrel with them, for the simple reason that there is nothing in them with which you can quarrel; they are absolutely illusory, and secondary education will, after the Bill becomes an Act, be very much in the same position as it is in now.

The problem of overlapping and co-ordination is one which concerns chiefly the big towns. The noble Marquess laid great stress on the fact that School Boards were more bent on extending the range of their operations than on doing their duty to the elementary schools primarily under their control.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Let me correct the noble Lord. What I said was that they should be more concerned in promoting the quality of the education.

*LORD REAY: It comes rather to the same thing; it means that in the view of the noble Marquess the quality of the education in elementary schools leaves something to be desired. As regards the quality of the education in the elementary schools it is so far from the case that the London School Board overlooks it that lately a very definite inquiry has been proceeding as to the best means of still further improving the quality.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I am aware that the School Board drew attention to the fact that there had been a loss in accuracy.

*LORD REAY: Its Inspectors had brought to the notice of the School Board that through the change of system of the education there was some risk that accuracy might not be enforced as strictly as it was in former days. I only mention this to show that no neglect can be imputed to us, and I may perhaps point out that the Board Inspectors (and not His Majesty's Inspectors) were the first to bring it to the notice of the School Board. No further proof is needed to show that the School Board is fully alive to its responsibility in the matter.

Now, I should like to say in regard to higher grade schools that these schools to which the accusation would apply that we were going rather beyond the legitimate range of our operations, are not secondary or technical schools, but in the language of the Board of Education "Higher Elementary Schools," or what in France is called the *Ecole primaire supérieure.* The Higher Elementary School is the school which represents the final stage of the education given to those who can only receive elementary education, so that as regards the extension of the range of operations there certainly was no sufficient ground for abolishing School Boards.

The noble Marquess alluded to a resolution of the London School Board in favour of the system of this Bill and of its application to London. Since that resolution was passed—yesterday—the School Board by majority adopted a resolution moved by Dr. Macnamara that for London no departure should be made from the system of *ad hoc* representation. I trust, therefore, that I have convinced the noble Marquess that, as far as London is concerned, there does not exist any widespread desire to see the principles of this Act applied.

If there has been any encroachment of School Boards on higher and secondary education, the noble Duke in his speech last night was careful to say—and I am sure the noble Marquess will not fail to endorse it—that it had been done with the connivance and even with the encouragement of the Education Department. The School Boards are certainly not the only or even the chief delinquents. I deny that they did anything for which the Education Department does not share the responsibility. The confusion is much exaggerated; but if confusion exists, it is due to the lack of control which should have been exercised with greater vigour by the Education Department. The conditions under which the Parliamentary and other grants are made as contained in the Code and in the Directory enable the central authority to establish the line of demarcation between primary and secondary schools. Important questions, such as the size of the schools, the numbers in a class, the qualifications of the teachers, the sufficiency of school accommodation, the adequacy of the subjects taught, must be settled by the Board of Education, in the last resort, whatever local authority is constituted under it, if the rate of progress in all parts of the country is to be uniform. What I regret in the Bill is that the power of the Board of Education is weakened. Hitherto it could act in default, henceforth it can only act by *mandamus*, and we know that *mandamus* is an extremely weak instrument.

Now, my Lords, the demand for uniformity of control, of which we hear so much, is advanced mainly on the ground of the existing chaos. That chaos, however, is due not to the absence of a power which represented uniformity of control, but because that power did not choose to exercise it. The responsibility for the systematic organisation of national education rests with the Central Department, and the Central Department can never divest itself of it; and, if it could, it ought not to do so. Whatever may be the constitution of the local education authority, the guidance, the impulse must be given by the central authority, which has at its command the most expert advice, and the information which it gathers through its inspectors from all parts of the country. With regard to inspection, the noble Viscount opposite (Lord Goschen) last night stated that he could not conceive how a dual inspection could take place by what he called local despots and central despots. As the noble Marquess is aware, in London the dual inspection exists; His Majesty's Inspectors, inspect the schools, and in addition there are the Board's Inspectors; and our experience is that the Board Inspectors are stricter in the exercise of their functions than His Majesty's Inspectors. Of course, I do not know what the reports are which reach the heads of the Education Department,

Lord Reay.

but the reports which reach us are not of very much use; and I hope that the noble Marquess will take steps to secure that in future we shall get more detailed information as to the results of the inspection of our schools by His Majesty's Inspectors.

If I insist that in future there should be no weakening of central control, I appeal with confidence to the experience of Scotland. In Scotland, if we have made considerable progress in these later years in the direction of a better organisation of elementary, secondary, technical, and agricultural education, it is chiefly due to the constant guidance and the vigorous initiative of the Central Department. If there has been no overlapping in Scotland, if there has been no squandering of resources, if there has been consolidation of local effort, it has all been due to the impulse given by the central authority. Such guidance has a stimulating effect on local authorities, and does not in any way interfere with any initiative they may wish to take. Where the Department shows its superior insight into the needs of the country, as the Scotch Department has done, no friction arises, but, on the contrary, you will find that the local bodies will be quite ready to meet your wishes. The noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland, I am sure will not deny that he has always found School Boards and County Councils ready to accept any advice which might be given them by him.

My Lords, the obvious course to pursue in England was to strengthen the hands of the central executive. That was the object of the Board of Education Act. Your next step should have been to give effect to the recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission. If that had been done, we should have had a very different Bill as regards secondary education to that which is before the House. After that, you should have created proper areas for elementary education in rural districts, leaving the towns in possession of the School Boards, whose efficiency—the noble Marquess will not deny this—though their ambition may have been in his opinion too great, has never been doubted. Proceeding step by step, you would then have avoided the leap in the dark which you are now taking by imposing duties on bodies who are in several instances and in cases where they are best qualified to undertake these new duties, not prepared to undertake them. You could have prevented overlapping without establishing one authority for elementary and secondary education. Elementary education requires smaller areas than secondary education. Elementary education deals with schools which have great similarity of object. It deals with children who, as a rule, will not frequent day schools after reaching the age of fifteen. Secondary schools, on the other hand, offer a great variety of types, and are intended for scholars who will not leave school until they are eighteen. The methods of teaching in both categories of schools are different; the qualifications of the teachers are different. The authorities for secondary and for elementary education could easily have been linked, and, where differences arose, the Board of Education could very easily have settled them. Is the county the proper unit for administration of all education? It seems very doubtful, when one of the most efficient County Councils, that of the West Riding of Yorkshire, declares it is incapable of coping with the task of supervising all elementary schools. An area of a suitable size, such as the noble Earl behind me mentioned, the area of the Rural District Council, might have suited the purpose. No doubt, if you make the county (I am not speaking now of secondary education but only of elementary education) the unit for elementary education, the local interest in education must naturally be very much weakened because the locality will no longer be directly, but will only be indirectly, connected with the school which serves its area. If the authority is so remote, what connection remains? I need not go into all the details; my noble friend, Lord Tweedmouth, has done that; but I must point out that under those circumstances administration will almost inevitably become mechanical. The County Council will act through its officials, and the work cannot be done by the members of the County Council itself. You will undoubtedly have delegation (the noble Earl, Lord Northbrook, has admitted that) in all instances of large areas and large County Councils. Now this is not what is understood by municipalisation. What you mean by municipalisation is that the members of a municipality, just as is now done by the members of a School Board, will themselves undertake the duties for which they are elected so that the ratepayers may hold them responsible. They will do it through committees; but those committees may not be composed of members of the authority which is represented. We shall lose, therefore, not only what has been called the *ad hoc* representation, but all representative control, and that is a serious inroad on the popular control of education. As regards the results of a county rate, I need only say that I agree with what fell from my noble friend Lord Camperdown last night.

The Cockerton decisions are the other reason which is given for the abolition of School Boards—I am careful not to say board schools. The Cockerton decisions are certainly not a sufficient reason for altering our whole educational system. Nothing would have been easier after the Cockerton decisions than to arrange for the work in dispute to be continued either in the elementary branch or in the secondary branch, either by the School Boards or by the County Councils. There was no need to create one authority; to disestablish, as the noble Duke said last night, either the County Council in connection with secondary education or the School Board in connection with primary education. All you need have done was to let them alone, and to establish some connecting link between the two. In London and in Manchester and in several other towns there is a *concordat* between the County Council and the School Board, and by that *concordat* all possibility of overlapping, all possibility of collision between the two is absolutely excluded. You could have enforced or prescribed this *concordat* and left the situation as it is. Now, in this Bill there is a most remarkable instance of defining elementary education, and that is the definition of elementary education in evening schools. It is laid down that education in evening schools will only be considered elementary when reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught there. That is going back to the old Code; that is putting the clock back more than thirty years. In an elementary evening school we shall be unable to teach what your Code allows to be taught in the elementary day schools. After this Bill becomes an Act, you are going back altogether; in fact it is a deduction that may be fairly drawn, that in the elementary day schools also you will limit elementary education to reading, writing, and arithmetic, and thereby give satisfaction to some of the supporters of the Government. It is obvious that in an evening school you want not to teach what has already, *ex hypothesi*, been taught in the day school, but you want to give additional education; and if in elementary evening schools you are going back to reading, writing, and arithmetic, that will show that the day schools have been absolutely inefficient. I hope the noble Marquess will consult my noble friend the Secretary for Scotland, and have some conversation with him about the Code for continuation classes in Scotland, than which there is no more remarkable or better Code.

Now, with regard to voluntary schools. Why was the simple procedure not followed of making an addition to the Voluntary Schools Act of 1897? That would have made the whole cumbrous machinery of this Bill unnecessary. It would not have involved any alterations in the constitution of voluntary schools. You might have made the conditions under which the Parliamentary grant was given to voluntary schools more stringent, taking care that voluntary schools should use it for improvement and increased efficiency, and you might have followed that same course if you wanted to restrain what I think has been unjustly called the extravagance of School Boards. Now we have this very important departure from the Act of 1870—because for voluntary schools the departure is a very serious one. In the Act of 1870 you have the recognition of a clear line between denominational schools and undenominational schools. What is a denominational school? A denominational school is a school over which the denomination to which it belongs has full control. The managers belong to the denomination, the teachers belong to the denomination, and the teaching is denominational throughout. Nothing can be taught in that school at any time which is contrary to the tenets of the denomination.

That is what I understand by denominational schools. The assumption is that parents will send their children to a denominational school who wish for guarantees that the schools will strengthen the ties which unite them to the denomination. All this is recognised by the Act of 1870. The Act of 1870 did not interfere with their management; it only required certain conditions of efficiency, which did not impair the character, the atmosphere of the school. It did not differentiate between the control of religious and of secular instruction. This Bill, on the other hand, interferes with the denominational schools, and subjects them, as regards secular instruction, to local control. The majority of the managers are to belong to the denomination, the head teacher likewise, but the local authority may prescribe the books which are to be used, and its inspectors may inspect the schools. The local authority in prescribing the books may or may not respect the character of the school. It may prescribe books which the denomination may legitimately object to, and in such a case it is obvious that the head teacher who belongs to the denomination will use the books for purposes of criticism. You can very well use a book in a school not to teach its contents, but to teach the children exactly the reverse of what that book contains, and you cannot always have an inspector present to control what is going on. The head teacher cannot conscientiously teach from a book which will be sent to him by the County Council if he knows that in that book there are facts with which he disagrees, with which the parents of the children disagree, and the majority of the managers of the school. In such a case the control of the local authority must be absolutely nugatory.

I now come to Roman Catholic Schools. Suppose the County Council prescribes for a Roman Catholic school a book which is contrary to the convictions of those who frequent the school—take a book in which the history of the Reformation is given in such a way that Catholic children cannot be taught from it. Clearly in such a case you cannot insist on the use of such a book; you must have regard to the opinion of the majority of the managers who understand the nature of the secular instruction which is suitable. The difficulty is much greater as regards secular instruction than it is as regards religious instruction. From religious instruction you can withdraw the children; from secular instruction you cannot. The minority managers, if they do not belong to the denomination, have not the qualifications required of managers of such a school. If I were appointed by a County Council as a minority manager of a Roman Catholic school, I should distinctly decline to act in such a capacity, because I should consider myself to have nene of the qualifications required in the management of a Roman Catholic school. You cannot alter the character of a denominational school. I defy you to undenominationalise the secular part of a denominational school Of a denominational school I say, *sit ut est aut non sit*. In giving a hybrid character to such a school you attempt an impossibility; and I for one should not be prepared to explain the contents of this Bill as regards the management of these schools to any meeting of educational experts on the Continent of Europe; I know I should be met with derision.

I say again, the Act of 1870 was infinitely more favourable to the independence and autonomy of denominational schools than will be your Bill when it becomes an Act. It is true that the Act of 1870 recognised all vacancies in a denominational school. That I admit. The practice of the Department has always been correct; the practice of the Department has always been that vacancies in a Roman Catholic school were not taken into account for other denominations. One of the best features of this Bill—I am sorry to say it is the only one feature, the one important improvement, with which I do agree—is that those vacant places will now legally no longer be taken into account. You confirm the practice of the Department. But otherwise, to call this Bill, as the noble Duke did last night, the offspring of the Act of 1870, is an absolute contradiction if it is the offspring, it has none of the features of the parent.

The noble Viscount opposite (Lord Goschen) alluded last night to pictures on the walls of schools, and complained that the Department had interfered with the pictures. Now the pictures on the walls of some denominational schools are essential. A greater impression is created on the minds of the children by the pictures than by any teaching of the catechism. Again I ask, will you give the local education authority the power in a denominational school to order that the pictures shall be removed in such a school although the pictures are those which are absolutely necessary to give what the noble Viscount called the tone of the school? The school by this cumbrous machinery does not become more suitable for the children for whom it was not intended. All you do is to create a petty annoyance for managers of the voluntary schools which fails to achieve its object. I say, if that is the natural outcome of giving rate aid, then rate aid ought never to have been proposed. My belief is that rate aid contains in it the germ of the destruction of denominational schools, which I for one do not want to see destroyed. Where the ratepayers will discover, and they must sooner or later discover, that the amount of control which they can exercise over the denominational schools is absolutely illusory, obviously they will claim more, and then you must either put the denominational schools back under the conditions of the Act of 1870, or you must take a step forward and absolutely undenominationalise the denominational schools.

The noble Viscount said last night that the denominational schools pay a heavy price for rate aid. Yes, they do. The price is too heavy if they retain their denominational character, and it is a great deal too slight if they are henceforth to be considered as national schools—schools which are suitable for all children. I have nothing but cordial feelings towards denominational schools. I do not wish the London voluntary schools to be disturbed or transformed. Leave them as they are. Give them a larger grant if you wish to do so. These schools have their own province, and as long as they do not encroach on the province of undenominational schools, I recognise them as a valuable and an integral part of the educational system of the Metropolis. I hope that the noble Duke will at all events not say that I have shirked the challenge which he threw out yesterday as to our views regarding voluntary schools.

In the big towns hitherto there has been no religious difficulty. Denominational schools in the big towns fulfilled their purpose. Henceforth, when this new machinery comes into operation, I am not at all sure that difficulties will not arise. When I say that in the big towns hitherto there has been no religious difficulty, I speak from experience. In London it does not exist. Parents who send their children to board schools are satisfied with the religious teaching. The cases of withdrawal of children are almost *nil*, and where such withdrawals have occurred, they did not occur on the ground that the religious instruction in the school was not dogmatic enough, and was too vague; the complaint was that it was too dogmatic. Quite lately a clergyman of the Church of England told me that he considered that too much notice was taken of a certain dogma. Perhaps it will be said that the parents are indifferent, and that therefore there are no difficulties, but there are an immense number of children belonging to the Church of England in the board schools. Would those children be sent there if there was any fear that they would be detached from the Church of England? No; they are sent there because it is well known that by frequenting the board schools they will not be worse, but they will be better, members of the Church of England. I was very glad to hear the right rev. Prelate who preceded me speak of the religious teaching in board schools, and especially in the London board schools, and say that it was very good; but I cannot overlook the fact that last night the noble Duke spoke of that instruction as colourless and hardly different from secular. And the system has been called, I believe, a "rotten" system. Now I wish to say a word about this rotten system. I am not going to indulge in generalities. The House must forgive me if I enter for a moment into detail. I hold here in my hand the syllabus of the religious teaching in a board school. This syllabus has not been specially selected; I asked that a syllabus should be given me taken at random. This is the kind of teaching I find there: "The second coming of our Lord" ("The Transfiguration" as a "Manifestation of Trinity);" "Rules for guidance of Christian life; judgment on others; the importance of prayer; the narrow entrance to the Kingdom; false guides, the test of true guides; the wise and foolish builders;

true subjects and false." My Lords, is this or is it not dogmatic? Is that definite Christian teaching or indefinite?

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH): What security is taken that the gentleman——

*LORD REAY: I fully expected that question to be put to me, and I am going to answer at the same time the right rev. Prelate who preceded me. The first security you have is the training the teacher received. The next security is that the teacher him or her self draws up such a syllabus, and therefore, unless you impute to the teacher hypocrisy, you must take it for granted that they believe these solemn truths. In addition there is this safeguard, that a teacher who does not believe these truths is exempted from teaching them, and that he or she would decline to teach them. There can be no doubt that the great majority of our teachers do teach on these Christian lines. If my noble friend opposite, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, asks me to what Church the teacher belongs, I cannot give the answer.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I beg the noble Lord's pardon. He interrupted me before I had finished my question. My question is a much simpler one. What security is taken that the lady or gentleman who gives this instruction on such sacred subjects is really qualified to do it?

*LORD REAY: Of course according to the Code His Majesty's inspectors do not deal with this instruction. Our own inspectors do. Of those eight inspectors, I think I am justified in saying that seven belong to the Church of England. I have consulted them and asked them this very question that the noble Lord asks:—"Is this teaching real, and is there any guarantee that the teachers who give it do so really believing it." And my information is to the effect that we have every guarantee that could be required.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: But what is that guarantee? That is the question.

*LORD REAY: The guarantee is, as I say, the Christian convictions of the teachers and the inspection. Our inspectors see that the teaching is given in such a way as to convey to the children that the teacher is in earnest. Now these truths, I admit, are not taught as truths having a denominational character or as emanating from any particular denomination. They have another sanction. They are taught as Divine truths, as having a sanction superior to that which can be derived from any denomination. They are the common inheritance of all Christian Churches. I ask, Does that weaken their authority? Will the faith of a child belonging to the Church of England be shaken because these truths are imparted to it simultaneously with Baptist, with Congregationalist, and with Wesleyan children? Will not the fact that these truths are the common inheritance of various denominations rather strengthen the effect which they produce on the mind of the child? And, my Lords, is not this common Christianity a pearl of great price; is it not one of the causes of our national greatness? That is, at all events, what the parents think; that is what the teachers believe who belong to the Church of England, and who give this instruction. Therefore, you can easily conceive what the feelings of those teachers are, who teach these truths with absolute devoutness, when they are told that the system is a "rotten" system. Ask the clergy of London whether the religious knowledge of the children who go to these schools, when they prepare them for confirmation, is not excellent. The religious teaching in the board schools of London is uniformly good. The inspectors state that there is hardly any subject which is so well taught as the subject of religion. And what is the effect—what atmosphere is created in the school? Not the secular atmosphere, but a distinctly Christian atmosphere. The other day I was at a public meeting and I spoke of the "moral and intellectual instruction" given in board schools. I was corrected. I was told that I ought to have used the words "moral, intellectual, and religious." And who was it who corrected me? A clergyman of the Church of England. I was very glad of the reproof. And let me add that I consider it a great privilege to have been associated these last years with a large number of clergymen of the Church of England, as well as with clergymen of other Churches, in providing for the children of London this teaching of which I have given you a specimen from this syllabus, and that never has there been any difference of opinion among these clergymen of various Church about the nature of the teaching or the method in which it should be given in the schools. But there is other evidence that I can give you. Occasionally a Church of England school is transferred to the Board, and then the teachers are also transferred. Now, ask the teachers who are transferred from a voluntary school, from a Church of England school, whether the religious teaching given in the Board Schools is of such a nature that they feel in any way hampered or feel that there is really such a distinction as is material to the religious instruction that is to be given to the children. We have never had the smallest difficulty. Then, can the managers of the voluntary schools who allow them to be transferred be charged with a dereliction of duty, as they would be if this was a rotten system?

I say therefore that there is no religious difficulty in the towns, and *quieta non movere* ought to have been your policy. There is a difficulty in the one-school districts, although that difficulty is not insuperable with the exercise of Christian charity. Is there anything to show that parents in one-school districts are animated by different feelings than those of the majority of parents in towns? The whole point is, what are the feelings and wishes of the parents. In how many parishes of England would the parents object if the Catechism which is now taught for one or two days in the week—because it is not taught in the schools every day—were taught independently on another day? And I ask again, How many parents in rural parishes in England would object to religious instruction being given by a Nonconformist teacher? Nonconformist parents do not object to Churchof England teachers; why should Church of England parents object to religious instruction being given by Nonconformists? Are the parents in the rural districts more denominational than those in towns? Do you think that Christianity would suffer in rural schools by the admission of teachers, who (and that is our experience in our London schools) materially contribute to the development of a religious atmosphere in our schools? Their virtual exclusion in the one-school districts, even in districts where Nonconformist parents are in a majority, is an anachronism and a cause of widespread resentment. It is not a financial question; it is not a question of the rights of property; full value should be given for the use of the building, but in a one school district the school should be such as to meet the wishes (I mean the ascertained wishes) of the parents residing there. In nine cases out of ten in a one-school district, you would have no difficulty; but what we contend is that the wishes of the parents in these districts should not be over-ruled by any trust deed or by any private owner of the school. The parents must have a sense of absolute security that in sending their children to such a school they will not be brought under influences which are opposed to their own conviction. Where the State compels parents to send their children to school, the State is responsible for the atmosphere of the school, not the owner of the building or the founder of the trust.

Would the clergy in accepting popular control be eliminated from the management of schools? I think not. I think that in most cases the parish rector or the vicar would be at once elected on the representative body. What has been our experience in Scotland? In 1872 we established popular control of schools in Scotland. The clergy of Scotland wisely accepted popular control, and what is the result? On those School Boards, you will find the minister as the elected representative of the people. The influence of the clergy is not weakened by election, but the very fact that they are there as popularly-elected representatives increases their influence; their influence is on a much sounder foundation than before; and it is only in those cases where a clergyman has made himself absolutely unpopular that he probably would not be elected.

What the nation wants is a school rooted in the national soil, representative of its national religious life; tolerant, but not indifferent; open to all; equally serviceable to all denominations, hostile to none; having the confidence of the parents, because the representatives of the parents have full control. For parents who desire it, denominational schools can be provided wherever the circumstances will admit of such schools being efficient. My Lords, we have been hitherto free from the lamentable antagonism which afflicts foreign countries where the nation is divided into two camps—a clerical and an anti-clerical camp. The magnitude of this antagonism, the peril which it causes to the religious life of a nation, the dissensions which it promotes, are only too well known to those who have lived in such an atmosphere. It has been one of the greatest blessings of this country that we have remained free from that antagonism. I wish I could believe that under this Bill that antagonism will not arise. It is mainly because I fear that we may see it arise that I shall have to give a conscientious vote against this measure.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON: My Lords, I feel considerable reluctance in rising to speak tonight, in the first place, lest I should in any way interfere with the most able speech by the right rev. Prelate who has well represented the Bishops on many points with regard to this Bill, and also because I cannot profess to treat with the same entirely full-voiced approval every point which is before us in the Bill. But I wish to say a few words now with regard to the very fair speech that we have heard from the noble Lord who has just spoken, and also with regard to the speech that was made by one who is as much respected on our Bench as any man in England, and that is the noble Lord who leads the Opposition in this House. I rather address my remarks to the speech which was made by the noble Earl who leads the Opposition, because I distinctly understood when I heard him speak that he wished for a system of universal School Boards. Now, I understand that the Noble Lord who has just spoken does not wish for that at all. But it is with regard to the position of the Church in regard to School Boards that I want to say a very few words tonight.

In the first place, I want to speak with all my heart of the excellence of the men and women who are teachers in our board schools. I lived for nine years in the middle of the slums myself, and I have found them our kindest possible helpers and friends on every occasion, and we ourselves think it a privilege to serve as managers of the schools. Secondly, we find that many of them are not only capable but are very anxious and would be quite ready to give the full instruction which they would love to do as members of our Church. Thirdly, in speaking of School Board instruction we must remember that it is being given side by side with the denominational schools existing in London at the same time, and I think we hardly recognise that we owe to the toning up of the religious instruction in the board schools the existence, side by side, of the denominational schools. Fourthly, the teachers of whom we are speaking have been largely trained in Church training colleges. Yet when you get all those four points before you, can it be said that the system of board school religion is a satisfactory system? My Lords, it is impossible for me to say that. There are three flaws in that system as I have seen it working which I wish to put before your Lordships. In the first place, the tie that is placed upon the teacher in interpreting the Holy Scriptures is something which hampers him at every turn. It is one thing to have a syllabus of instruction—it is another thing to be able to teach what is in the syllabus. I ask your Lordships, if you had to teach the Gospel of St. John and had to teach it—I use the words of the Leader of the Opposition—without dogma at all, I ask you to picture to yourselves what your task would be. Why, the whole centre and core of the Gospel of St. John is that our Lord Jesus Christ is Divine as well as human. If that is not a dogma, what is? We find time after time that better instruction is given than the system would warrant, but you have to take the system as a system, and the first point about that system, which I venture to say is a rotten system—I am not afraid of the word—is that it hampers the man or woman who is teaching the Holy Scriptures from giving the full instruction which that teaching really implies. Or, take the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Some of your Lordships may have tried to teach it. If you have, you know how impossible it is to teach the book of the Acts of the Apostles without entering on great controversial issues and without touching upon baptism or confirmation or other subjects which are absolutely woven up into the very texture of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Then, secondly, I will put this before your Lordships. The London School Board is the very best instance that could possibly be taken by friends of the School Board system. There are School Boards throughout England who rule out any religious instruction at all. What security have we that there will be any religious instruction at all for our children under this vaunted system? As a matter of fact, we know that there are School Boards that have no religious instruction whatever. Thirdly, the position of managers is most ridiculous. I have been manager of three large board schools for years. A man comes before you who is going to be entrusted with the religious instruction of our children; you are not allowed to ask him a single word about his qualifications for that position. The right rev. Prelate who spoke last from our Bench put before us how absurd it was to appoint a man to draw, when you could not find out whether or not he could draw; but it goes to my heart just as much, as a teacher of religion, to have someone coming before me to teach the children religion when I may not ask him a single question as to his fitness for the work. I ask, is that system one which I am not justified in calling a rotten system of religious instruction? I admit that as it has been worked out, the system has worked better than we could have expected, but it is a system which we, as the Church, cannot admit to be a right system at all.

Let me turn from the system itself to the results. During those nine years which I spent night by night in the district of Bethnal Green, I had passing through my hands, I suppose, during that period, literally thousands of lads of the ages between 14 and 15 coming straight from this much vaunted system where the religious instruction is said to be so excellent, and I suppose so permanent in its results. Without the slightest idea of any controversial purpose, but merely as a matter of curiosity, we used to put a mark against every boy's name at the age of 14 or 15 as he came into one of our institutions (holding 500 boys) as to whether he went to any place of religious worship at all. If he went to a chapel or any little mission room, down would go a mark against his name that he went somewhere. Out of these thousands of boys, what do you suppose the proportion was when the list was added up? There were more than eighty out of a hundred with "G.N." against their names, which meant "goes nowhere." Now, after all is said and done, the test of any system is the permanent results. Take, again, a number of men of the age of 30 or 40, and I find that only one in 80 went anywhere at all. And this was a sample population for our poorer districts! Why do I attribute these results to the system: For this reason: We ourselves, by being taught at our public schools, are attached to some sort of organisation all your Lordships have an innate affection for the school from which you came; but the board school system leaves a boy and girl attached to nothing. Why, when I took on one of the poorest parishes, I found in the parish among the band who stood around me through thick and thin, there was a body of men and women who had been brought up in the school of the Church, and the school of the Church had left them attached to the Church. Therefore my argument is this: that this Board School system of which we have heard so much praise to night, when you test it by its results, does not leave the boy or girl attached to any church or chapel. I have constantly said to myself that I would have done anything to have found some 40 or 50 of those boys who came into the club attached to some chapel, if they could not be attached to some church—if they had found their spiritual home somewhere. That, my Lords, is the result as I tested it by personal experience in my own district. Therefore I wish to express my gratitude to the Government for having, by their scheme, safeguarded the denominational system as part of the religious system of this country.

The moment that this Bill came before us I invited eleven Nonconformist leaders to come down and meet me in conference at Fulham; and I should like to bear witness here to the great fairness, and, I thought, the almost touching willingness with which they came at once to meet me in conference upon this subject. We had some six hours together; therefore it must not be supposed that we had not most closely inquired into the grievances which Nonconformists may feel. Dr. Hugh Price Hughes, who has so lately passed away, was one of the most conciliatory. Then we had Dr. Clifford there himself, and I can hardly express in how kindly and conciliatory a way he stated the case on his side. Therefore when I say that we believe that we are not unfair to Nonconformists in supporting this Bill, it is not because we have not in a most careful way gone into what the Nonconformist grievances are. What are their grievances? I take, for instance, this grievance—that the Church is trying to proselytise the children of Nonconformists. That was not asserted by the noble Lord who has just sat down, but it is often asserted in the country. To what do I point to show that that is not true? In Convocation we made this offer, which has never been withdrawn, that we would give full access to the Nonconformists to teach their children in the Church of England schools if we had similar leave given us to teach our children in board schools. Now, could a body that wanted to proselytise the children in an unfair way make such an offer as that? The offer was not accepted by the Government, but at any rate I think it shows that we wanted to be fair. Therefore I think that the first accusation that we want to proselytise the children of Nonconformists is shown not to be well founded by that proposition which we have made in the most public way. Then, secondly, comes the accusation that the Nonconformists' money is to be taken to pay for our denominational teaching. I would ask your Lordships to listen to an argument which I tried to put before the great meeting at the Albert Hall, but which was in some extraordinary way entirely misunderstood by Mr. Bryce in the other House. That argument was, that we place at the disposal of the country buildings the rental of which was equal to £750,000 a year; if you take the amount of your teaching as equivalent to one-eighth of the school time, that would amount to no more than £175,000 a year. On this the accusation was founded that I had priced the cost of repairs at £175,000 a year. Your Lordships will understand that that is a totally different assertion. My point was this, and I put it to the leaders of the Nonconformists themselves, that the Church of England was going to give this large contribution towards education, that the contribution which it should pay for its own distinctive teaching could not come within one-fifth of the total cost which we ourselves paid, and therefore that they were under a total mistake if they imagined that their money out of the rates was to be taken for our teaching. So again we have asserted that in single-school areas the greatest possible fairness ought to be shown to the Nonconformist children. In any scheme I had control of, I myself should be perfectly ready that Nonconformist children should be brought up in any way that the parents wished, and taught the tenets that their parents held. We ourselves in single-school areas would naturally look for the same leave to be given where the only school was a board school. In spite of the whole of England being ransacked to find a grievance, I think your Lordships will agree that the case of any grievance of Nonconformist children has entirely broken down.

For these reasons I am compelled by my sense of what is right to vote for the Second Reading of this Bill. But I cannot sit down and leave your Lordships under the impression that everything in this Bill satisfies me, or many of those who sit on my Bench. It is only honest to say what is in one's mind in a question like this. There is not the slightest doubt that the Kenyon-Slaney Clause has stirred up a deeply felt spirit of indignation and alarm among the clergymen of the Church of England. I want your Lordships to know what those clergymen have done. I went to a school the other day in a very poor district. The clergyman there had been for very nearly ten or fifteen years trying to get a new wing built to the school, by collecting cards and boxes, and so on. At this little evening function at which I was present the clergyman made the announcement that they had at last got the new wing for which they had been begging for the last fifteen years. Can you wonder at a man like that, living on bread and cheese as it were, sending his children out as governesses in order to provide for that wing, feeling a grievance when he imagines that he will have to go hat in hand before the managers before he can enter that school which he has built by the sweat of his brow?

What, then, I do hope the noble Lord and the Government will see their way to do is to accept a slight change which will be brought forward at a later period to deal with this point which shall safeguard this—that it shall be the normal thing for the clergyman to go in and teach in his school. If for any reason the management find that the influence is bad, or the teaching is unsatisfactory, they should have a perfect right to appeal to the bishops as the trust deed lays down, and on appeal to the bishops they should have the power, but not till then, of excluding him from his school. It seems to me that as the Bill stands at present there is reason to a certain extent for this widespread alarm, and even indignation, through the Church of England clergy in the country. I shall move an Amendment in Committee dealing with this point, but I did not like to speak upon the Second Reading without making my position clear with regard to it.

The other point is the question of repairs. I have the figures before me from five schools in the country which demonstrate this, that those who manage those five particular schools will have, under the Bill, to find £70 a year more than the amount that they have received from all the subscriptions during the last five years. In these circumstances I would ask the Government this question: Where is the relief to this intolerable strain coming in? Personally in the counsels of the Church I have fought this matter of repairs, simply because the slum schools which I know so well will, I fear, some of them have to close their doors. That was on the question of what were called the landlords' repairs and extensions. Now I understand that tenants' repairs are also to be placed on the schools. What a terrible comment it will be if after this Bill, which has involved such an infinite amount of pains and labour, becomes law, numbers of poor schools in the slums will have to close their doors because they cannot pay their expenses. I hope the word "structural" will be put in before the word "repairs," and that this very great defect in the Bill will be remedied before it leaves this House. I am confident that the brave and determined attempt of the Government to carry out what they believe to be a true and lasting reform ought to be possible by this means, and I shall have the greatest pleasure in voting for the Second Reading of the Bill, on the understanding, and with the hope, that on these two points it will be amended before it leaves your Lordships' House.

*LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords, the right reverend Prelate's speech, to which, I need not say, I listened with the greatest interest and attention, divided itself into two heads. On one it dealt with the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment, which, I humbly think, I had better leave to the noble Duke in charge of the Bill to settle with the right reverend Prelate, as it is rather a domestic quarrel than one in which the Opposition has any part. Secondly, the right reverend Prelate dealt with the subject of religious education. I feel some diffidence in following him into that domain. I myself was brought up at one of the great public schools, and my recollection of the religious instruction there leads me to think that we did not receive, at any rate in my days at Harrow, much more religious instruction than is now taught in the Board Schools in this country. But, I take it that the grievance that the right reverend Prelate and others have when they denounce the undenominational religious teaching in the board schools is that they are afraid—and it is a fear which, I am sure, we will notice with respect—that the children of this country may drift into irreligion. Well, my Lords, I would humbly ask the right reverend Prelates whether they think that the age in which we live is less religious than in days gone by. If my knowledge of history is right, I venture to think that the great writers and the great thinkers of the end of the eighteenth and the commencement of the nineteenth century would have held up their hands with astonishment if they heard the people of this country, as they are now, quarelling about the dogmas and tenets of religion. Speaking myself as a Broad Churchman, a section of the Church which is not so popular now as it used to be some years ago, if I ventured to give my opinion upon religious instruction in our public schools it would be this, that I should hope that all sections would endeavour to unite and not divide those tenets which are common to all the Christian sects; and, it would be better, in my humble opinion, to leave those higher mysteries, which some of us feel a difficulty about even in our older age, to be taught when the intellect of the child is more mature and more able to understand them.

My noble friend, Earl Spencer, alluded last night to the difficulties which this House has to encounter when it has to discuss a measure which, like this, has received so much attention in the other House of Parliament, and on the platform, and in the Press, and if my noble friend felt a difficulty about that last night, surely I must feel much more difficulty tonight, when your Lordships have had inflicted upon you the intolerable strain of an unusual prolongation of our debates. But I hope your Lordships will kindly give me your indulgence (as I do not often venture to interfere in the debates of this House) while I will explain why I find it necessary to take the course I shall take when we proceed to vote upon this Bill.

My first complaint against the Government (perhaps it is presumptuous of me to put it forward) is that they have lost a golden opportunity of settling this question, and I say that for this reason. From all the speeches that have been made, and from everything that has been said on this question, no one can doubt that the necessity for additional educational advantages is generally admitted, and surely there never was a better occasion for dealing with that subject than now, because never before in our history, perhaps, have the people of our country looked more to the future destiny of the empire, as well as to the more immediate and the more selfish present; and never before, perhaps, have they taken a larger interest in the wider destinies of our country. I think it will be admitted that no Government has ever before had so great a power to bring about a beneficent Act for this country. The Government has an unprecedented majority in the other House, and it always has the ample and abiding confidence of your Lordships in this House. And, my Lords, the necessity being admitted, the opportunity being there, and the fullest power being in the hands of the Government to carry out this measure, I venture to think that the country had a right to expect from the Government on this occasion a truly national measure of education, a wide-minded and fair-minded and far-seeing scheme which would have aroused, as far as possible, in the public, general support, and which would have minimised and not emphasised, those sectional differences which unhappily divide our common religion.

My Lords, we must not, of course, venture to ask for the impossible. I know well enough that there are cranks in the Nonconformist chapels, and there are cranks in the Established Church, whom it would be quite impossible for a heaven-born Government to hope to conciliate or appease. But I think we had a right to hope that the settlement of a great question like this would have been such as could be accepted by an overwhelming majority of the people whom it so deeply affects. The scheme should surely, as far as possible (I recognise the difficulty in making it so) have been a national scheme and not a Party scheme. My complaint against the Bill, and my complaint against the Government, is that this is essentially a Party measure and a Party measure alone. I do not for a single moment impute anything but the best intentions to the Government. I am quite sure that the Government would have preferred that it should have been a national scheme, and they probably believe in their hearts that it is a national scheme, and that it is for the benefit of the whole country at large. But the mere formulation of the details of this Bill has aroused a Party spirit in this country which we have not seen since the Home Rule Bills of Mr. Gladstone in 1886 and 1892, and that fact surely proves in itself that this is a Party scheme and not a national one. It is impossible to deny that it is a Party scheme, and any scheme which is to be administered in the villages and hamlets of the country by all sorts and conditions of men of every kind of political complexion, if it is to have a chance of success, if it is to have any hope of permanency, should be tinged as lightly as possible with Party spirit, and should rest as much as possible on a national and not a Party basis.

I venture to think that national education should—and here I speak entirely for myself—be provided by the State, and by the State alone, and that no private interests, no private persons, should stand as stumbling blocks between the State and the all-important task which it has to carry out. National education now-a-days seems to me a matter of national defence — almost as much a matter of national defence as our Army and our Navy. Education is the national weapon with which we have to arm our people to fight the contests of the future—peaceful contests perhaps, but as far-reaching upon the power and prosperity of this country as some of the battles which our soldiers and sailors fought for us in the past. It is the duty of the State to over-ride if necessary—but of course on just and equitable terms—all those interests which stand between the State and its great task of national education. Your Lordships will remember that before the Act of 1870 there were various schemes of education brought forward, and they all fell to the ground; and they fell to the ground for the same reason—because of the private interests which stood between the State and the schemes it had to carry out. Surely it is a significant fact that the one great success of Mr. Forster's Bill of 1870, which after all was a compromise, is the large School Boards, the bodies which fulfil, as far as they are able under the Bill, the proposition for which I am contending, namely, direct control over educational matters, without complication of conflicting interests.

Now, I would ask whether the Bill in any way fulfils what is the bed-rock of any good scheme of national education—whether this Bill does contain the primary feature of what I consider best for education. If it does so I certainly am willing to vote for it; if it does not, then I shall certainly vote against it. I think your Lordships will admit that it does not do so, and I think that is a proposition that cannot be denied, because on the one hand it perpetuates and extends the dual system of education which has so seriously retarded our progress in the past, and on the other hand it subsidises by public money the private and sectarian interests of a section of the community; and it does this, moreover, without giving the ratepayers who have supplied that subsidy any control over the application of the money.

I would venture to grapple a little more with the details of the Bill than I have done hitherto, and in doing so I fear I must be somewhat wearisome, but it is absolutely necessary to disentangle from the innocent pages of this Bill the real meaning which it contains, and it will be necessary for me in doing that to go somewhat into detail.

We have heard a great deal about the unity of administration. I quite agree, as everybody who knows anything about, or who takes any interest in, education, must agree, that the unity of education authorities is the real key to any successful scheme, and that without this unity there will not be brought about that very desirable result to which we all look, namely, a ladder from the elementary school up to higher education, and so assisting bright boys and girls to make themselves useful to their country at large. A quotation has already been made this evening from a distinguished Member of the other House, whose speeches, though I do not always agree with them, I always hear and read with much admiration, I mean Lord Hugh Cecil. He said that his ideal of an elementary school was one with one door opening from the street and another door opening from the school into the church. Far be it from me to say that I do not want a door which shall open from the elementary school into the church, so long as that church is the church in which the scholar and his parents believe, but if I wished to put before your Lordships the ideal institute with which the State has to deal, I would venture to say this, that the church should have a door opening from the street, and another door inside leading into the higher education school. That seems to me to be the ideal of an elementary school.

Well, my Lords, unity of administration is, I venture to say, the key to any proper scheme of education, and unity of administration divides itself, I think I may say into two heads—the co-ordination of authorities, and the simplification of finance. Now, we have heard a good deal about the co-ordination of authorities. It is one of the things of which the framers of this Bill especially boast. I must ask your Lordships to follow me and see how many authorities exist at the present moment who had to be co ordinated, and how many authorities will be created under the present Bill. The authorities under the present system (I shall be corrected by my noble friend if I am wrong) are first of all the Board of Education; secondly, the County Councils acting through the Technical Instruction Committees which have to report to the Councils; thirdly, the School Boards; fourthly, the school attendance committees which are appointed by the Poor Law Guardians in non-School Board Districts; fifthly, the managers of voluntary schools; and sixthly, the voluntary schools associations which as your Lordships know were created by the Voluntary Schools Act of 1897. There are six authorities at the present moment. As we hear so much about the results of co-ordination in this Bill, I conclude that its framers imagine that the present authorities do not sufficiently co-ordinate education. Now, how many authorities are there under the present Bill? First of all there is the Board of Education, with very much increased powers; then the County or Borough Councils; then the Borough or Urban Councils (for secondary purposes under Clause 3), then there are the education committees under Clause 18—(and I may say in passing that those education committees have the power to appoint sub-committees again from outside their own body, so that if I were pressing the matter home I might claim these as another authority under the present Bill); fifthly, we have the "non-provided" school managers, with power to appoint the teachers, and to control religious education; sixthly, we have the "provided" school managers—that is, as your Lordships know, the old School Boards (and it is interesting to remark in passing that these provided school managers are the only authority, as far as I can make out, created by this Bill, that has not independent power, but has only powers delegated to it by the County Council); seventhly, we have the Voluntary Schools Associations (I have no doubt the noble Marquess well knows that Voluntary School Associations are not to be abolished, although, of course, the reason for which they were created—that is to allocate the 5s. aid grant—is abolished. As far as I can see, the only reason they are maintained is that they may be represented, as we were told in the other House they will be represented, on the education committee, and so to import some remnant of the old voluntary system into those bodies which we have been told on high authority are to give the entire popular control over secular education). And, eighthly, we have yet another authority, that is, the managers of secondary schools. Although there is no provision as to the appointment of managers of secondary schools in the Bill, yet, I suppose, as you give the County Councils power to set up secondary schools, these must of necessity have managers. So that it comes to this, that we have six authorities in all under the present system, and in order to simplify and co-ordinate and reduce this multiplicity of authorities you have created eight new authorities by the Bill. It does seem to me rather extraordinary that if you cannot get six authorities to co-ordinate you should think it possible that eight can do so in the future.

I pass from the co-ordination of authorities—which, as I have said, is one vital part of unity of administration—to the other, which is a very important one, and to which I would ask attention (though I am bound to say it is a very dull subject,) and that is, the simplification of the finances and the sources from which these new authorities that you have created are to derive the money by which the schools are to be kept up. Let me say at once that that is a very important question, because if you are going to have one account for one thing and another account for another, with a management for each, I really do not see where your co-ordination is going to come in. I will give a concrete case which illustrates what I mean. No doubt if I am wrong, I shall be corrected. I have said that simplification of finance is of the highest importance in order to bring about unity of administration. Now, we all know that there is one account for higher education under Part II. of this Bill, and there is one for elementary instruction under Part III. I would venture to draw your Lordships' attention to the definition Clause which has been imported into this Bill; I am not sure if it has ever been discussed in the other House; I rather think that it came in under the shadow of the guillotine; it is Clause 23; there we find for the first time a definition of what elementary education is to be—

> "The expression 'elementary education' shall not include any school carried on as an evening school under the regulations of the Board of Education where any part of the education given is other than instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic."

In other words, there has been imported into this Bill, for the first time, a definition of what elementary instruction is in the opinion of the Government; we now know that it is reading, writing, and arithmetic. I have already pointed out that there are two accounts—one for higher education and the other for elementary education, defined in the Bill. Now imagine an evening school in some mining or in some maritime district, an evening school at which there will be pupils, some—as there are unfortunately in all parts of the country, of fifteen years of age and upwards, whose elementary instruction has been neglected, and who are anxious to take advantage of this evening school. At the same time there are other youths, who in the mining districts are anxious to learn something about engineering, or in the maritime districts something about navigation; they also go to the evening schools. Therefore it will be brought about that under one roof you will have one set of youths being taught what the Bill calls elementary education under Part III. and paid for out of one account by one set of managers, and on the other hand you will have other youths being taught the higher education of Part II., paid for out of another account by another set of managers. I cannot for the life of me see how the simplification of accounts comes in by the Bill.

But I must trouble your Lordships, if I may do so—for this really is much more a Local Government Bill than an Education Bill, and therefore it is necessary for one to go into these local government questions — I would ask you to consider, with regard to this simplification of finance, what are the sources of income which we have under the present system. They are very long, and I will try to name them as briefly as possible, so as not to weary your Lordships. First of all, there are the Exchequer Grants, of which there are seven in all, namely, the Parliamentary grant, the fee grant, the aid grant for voluntary schools under the Act of 1897, the population grant, the training college grant, the necessitous School Boards grant, and, lastly, the grant under the Agricultural Rating Act. Your Lordships may remember that when under that Act half of the rates were remitted, the State agreed to make up the other half of the rates by an Exchequer Grant, so as to raise the rates of the School Boards to what they were previously. Those are the grants from the Exchequer. Secondly, there are the local sources of income—that is, the rates; they are three in number: there is the School Board Rate, the County Rate for technical instruction, and the Poor Rate, which is drawn upon to pay the expenses of the School Attendance Committees. Then, thirdly, there is the money which comes from the Local Taxation Act of 1890, which we may better recognise under the more popular name of the whisky money. Then, fourthly, there are the voluntary subscriptions; fifthly, there is another source of income which, under the present system, the schools get—that is to say, concerts and bazaars got up to help the schools; sixthly, there are the school fees; seventhly, there are the endowments. So that there are at present seven sources of income from which you draw your expenses we are told. Now, how many will there be under the Bill—which is going to simplify our finances and co-ordinate our authorities? First of all, there are the Exchequer Grants as before; secondly, there are the rates, which consist of the County Rates for primary education, the County Rates for secondary education, and the Borough and Urban District Rates. In passing, there is rather a curious and complicated matter which I should like to have explained by someone who knows the Bill better than I do Under the Bill the County Council is empowered to raise a 2d. rate for higher education in the county; at the same time, the borough and urban districts are allowed to raise a 1d. rate for higher education in their districts, but by the conditions of the Bill as I read it, the County Council is empowered to levy this 2d. rate all over the county, and therefore in the borough and urban districts as well, so that in the borough and urban districts they will be paying not only the 1d. rate but the additional 2d. rate, which is levied by the County Council. It seems to me to be somewhat of an anomaly, but it may be good finance. Then there is the whisky money as before, there are the voluntary contributions as before, there are the school fees, which will still be paid, and then there are the endowments, and, lastly, as a new source of income which has been absolutely invented by this Bill itself (and that only the other day) there are the rents of the teachers' houses. Under this Bill these will have to be paid by the county authority, and they will go towards the upkeeping of the schools. Therefore, it comes to this, that in this great scheme for the simplification of finance and the co-ordination of authorities, you have at present seven sources of income, and under the Bill you have seven sources of income too, so that as to the sources of income they are exactly the same under the present scheme as they were before. I thank your Lordships very much for having listened to the dry and dreary details that I have ventured to put before you, but I think we may say that when we come to talk about this boasted unity of administration, whatever else this Bill may do, it does not, if my proposition is correct, give us that in any sense.

My Lords, unity of administration is one of the conditions of a good scheme of education. The second condition is undoubtedly a good scheme of higher education. That is a subject that has been dealt with already, and as I have already detained your Lordships rather too long I shall not go into it now, but I think it has been admitted by every one that the scheme of higher education set up by the Bill does not come up at all to the expectations that were entertained. Practically what does it come to? There is no scheme in the Bill at all, and there is no indication to the County Councils as to how they are to carry out higher education. There is no power under the Bill to deal with endowments, which anybody who knows anything about secondary schools will admit to be a matter of the greatest importance. There is no power, as far as I understand, to determine whether the teachers in the school are efficient or not. There is no power to deal with private owners to take over schools and give compensation to the owners if it is wished to do so. It may be said, and no doubt it is said, that if the Government had brought in a great and full scheme of secondary education under the present conditions of Parliament it would have been impossible for them to have carried it in conjuntion with the highly contentious scheme they had to bring forward for primary education. With regard to that, I would venture to say that for my own part I would rather have seen their scheme of primary education hung up for some time and that they should have brought in a scheme dealing with higher education; and I say that not without reason. The noble Marquess this afternoon rather depreciated the present position of elementary education in our schools, which was one of the reasons given for bringing in this Bill, but when we turn to the Report of the Board of Education for this year, what do we find is the official view? It says—

> "The general efficiency of public elementary schools throughout the country is maintained at a higher level, and while there was still room for improvement in many schools very few wholly failed to provide adequate instruction for the children altogether."

No doubt we all wish to see primary education brought to the highest pitch, but here is the admission that in 1902 there was no great fault to find with it.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I think I said that in the rural schools it was generally acknowledged that the education was good, but there was more done in the higher branches of elementary education than was originally intended under the Act of 1870.

*LORD BURGHCLERE: All I am pointing out is that the report with regard to elementary education is not one which would make us think that it was absolutely imperative now to bring in another Bill. That was my only contention. But there is another paragraph which does seem to use more urgent words with regard to the teaching staff. I venture to think if the Government had allowed the elementary schools to remain as they are for another four or five years, and had brought in a scheme to reform their teaching staff in the meantime, and also brought in a good scheme of higher education, they would have been supported by the Opposition, and they certainly would have done better.

There is only one other point that I wish to make, and that will be very short. This is what I call the third condition with regard to any successful scheme of education. There should be within the Bill some chance of its being a permanent and a final settlement of the question. Now I venture to ask whether the most sanguine supporter of the Government imagines that in this Bill there is a final settlement, or even a settlement for our generation, of this great and important question. The noble Marquess and I think the Bishop of Winchester remarked that the "artificial feeling" which had been created against this Bill was dwindling away. Well, I think they had forgotten that my noble friend behind me presented only yesterday to this House a petition from the whole of the Free Churches of this country, representing eight or nine millions of people. Surely if the feeling is dwindling away it is dwindling away in a very peculiar way. The Nonconformist body, after all, is a large one in this country and is a great electoral force. If I were a Nonconformist I should say this Bill is not a settlement, it is a challenge. If that be true, if the Nonconformists consider it a re-endowment of the Church, if they consider that it puts upon them a stigma, a mark of inferiority on the minister of the chapel as compared with the clergyman of the Church of England, then I ask your Lordships how is it possible that this Bill can be a lasting and a permanent settlement? I notice that Sir Richard Jebb, speaking in the other House, said that under this Bill the country was going to take a real and living interest in education. My Lords, it has taken a real and living interest in education for the last six months on every platform, in the Press, in Parliament, and in my humble opinion that is the kind of interest in education which this Bill will create, and with which we are threatened for years to come.

My Lords, the gift of prophecy is as rare as it is valuable, and I certainly do not venture to put myself amongst the prophets, but if two and two make four there are within the corners of this Bill elements which must make for disturbance, and not for the better improvement of education. Therefore it is that I can honestly say that never in my parliamentary life have I given a vote with greater conviction, or with a clearer conscience, than that which I shall give tonight, being confident that my vote against this Bill will be a vote for the improvement of education and the advancement of Imperial interests.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, I can truly say, what I doubt any other noble Lord who has addressed the House to-night can say, that when I came down here this evening I had not the slightest intention of breaking silence in regard to this Bill. But some of the things which have been said by the noble Lord who has just sat down, and by my fellow countryman, who is Chairman of the London School Board, have seemed to me to make it necessary that I should trouble the House with a few words on some of the subjects which have been discussed this evening. I venture to make this preliminary observation in regard, not only to the speeches which I have more specially alluded to, but in regard to the great majority of the speeches which have been made against the Bill, that those who are its opponents seem to me to very insufficiently recognise the underlying difficulties of the existing situation in this country, or to take note of the complications of the subject with which the Government undertook to deal. We begin the consideration of this subject without the advantage of what is termed, in another relation in politics, the clean slate. We have to take account of the existing situation and the interests which are involved, of the agencies which have been created and the work they are doing. It is all very well to express an academic preference for what is called the secular system of education. It is all very well for those who prefer the separation of secular education from religious education altogether to express their admiration for it. All I can say is that I believe them to be in a hopeless minority in this country. And it is all very well to praise the Scottish system and to say that it works well and should be tried here. The conditions that obtain in Scotland are not parallel to those in this country, either with regard to the religious divisions of the two countries or with regard to the history of education. Therefore I say no more about those two propositions than this, that it seems to me that neither of them in the present state of public opinion in England affords the slightest prospect of a hopeful solution of the undoubted religious difficulties which surround this question. You have, therefore, to start from the arrangement of 1870, which recognises the denominational school system of this country, which this Bill is intended in the fairest possible way to develop and to make more suitable to the requirements of the present day rather than to overturn and to abolish. There has been no diminution of effort on the part of those who are supporters of voluntary schools. Their subscriptions are at a higher level than they were in 1870, or at any subsequent time. What has brought about the difficulty of the present state of matters is the increased demand which was made—and rightly made—for education owing to the altered circumstances of the country and the greater necessity for the development of educational facilities. That being so, I venture to say that there was no alternative before the Government which they could consider for a moment, than to introduce a scheme which must have been more or less upon the lines of that scheme which is under discussion tonight.

The attacks upon this Bill have been framed chiefly upon three grounds. It is made a charge that the Government are destroying School Boards, that the management of elementary schools is not sufficiently under public control, and that fresh tests are being imposed upon those who are engaged in the teaching profession. We have heard tonight various opinions about the desirability of unity of administration. The noble Lord who spoke last made it one of the main subjects of his speech. He desired to see unity of administration from top to bottom, but the noble Lord who spoke for the London School Board said, "Whatever you do, do not destroy School Boards. You might have left School Boards alone and yet have passed a great measure of educational reform." These two arguments are mutally destructive of one another. If you are to have unity of administration you must either interfere with the present powers and constitution of the School Boards of the country, or you must take from the great municipal bodies to which they had been given the powers in regard to secondary and technical education which they now possess. If, therefore, you are to have unity of administration, you must take one or other of these lines, and the line which the Government, after full consideration of the whole circumstances, wished to take, was that it would be better to unify administration by making the public authority for the administration of education one which was already universal over the whole area to be dealt with, and not the School Board, which is not universal and which now, according to law, has not any power whatever in regard to technical or secondary education. The noble Lord who spoke last seemed to derive great personal satisfaction from adding up the number of educational authorities which he said existed at the present time, and those which he said would exist in the future. But he will not dispute—and no one who has read this Bill can dispute—that, so far as secondary or technical instruction is concerned there will under this Bill be one authority in each area and one authority alone, and that will be the county authority. As I understand the Bill, as far as the counties are concerned, they will be under one authority for secondary and technical education. In adding up the authorities which the noble Lord said would be responsible for elementary education, he put in the County Council, the Educational Committee, and the school managers, and counted them as three; but surely they are one. These subordinate authorities—the education committee and the local managers—are, so far as secular education is concerned, so far as finance is concerned, one authority. They are not independent and conflicting authorities as from the noble Lord's speech I thought he intended to imply.

LORD BURGHCLERE: No.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: If I am misrepresenting the noble Lord I hope he will put me right, but I understood him in the list of authorities he made for elementary education to count not only the County Council, but the education committee and the school managers as different authorities.

LORD BURGHCLERE: So they are.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I ask whether that is a fair interpretation of the Bill. The Education Committee is appointed by the County Council. The school managers, so far as finance and the control of secular education are concerned, are absolutely and entirely the creatures of the County Council, which controls them in every detail of their secular work. Surely, therefore, it is not fair to count them as three different and conflicting authorities. I think I have made my point clear, and I will not elaborate it. One of the other points on which we have been most attacked is that of the management of the schools. The noble Lord the Chairman of the London School Board said that in certain cases the County Council might decree books which would be distasteful to the managers of the local school. Of course, if you are not to presume a certain amount of common sense on the part of those who are to work a Bill of this kind, you can raise all sorts of imaginary difficulties, but I believe that class of difficulty is one which is raised from the imagination of noble Lords. I do not believe that when the local authorities get to work they will do anything so entirely unreasonable and impossible. So far as the unity of authority is concerned, I believe that this will be a great educational advantage. Noble Lords opposite, and others who have spoken against the Bill, have praised the Scottish system. They have pointed out how much good is done by various kinds of higher education, not only the secondary schools, but that most important part of higher education which is provided for those of the population who must leave school necessarily at about the age of fifteen or sixteen. I agree that at the present time the advantages which are offered in Scotland are greater than those offered in England, but it is because I believe that for the first time under this Bill there will be a local authority legally capable for the whole area of the county of providing these advantages, that I support this Bill. The noble Lord the Chairman of the School Board for London was good enough to compliment me on the Code for continuation schools. I believe that under this Bill the County Councils will have the power of providing a precisely similar Code, because they will be able to do out of the funds of the locality what is now done in Scotland by local effort, and I believe they will then, for the first time, be able to gain for the whole area of England the same educational advantages which we enjoy in Scotland. It is because I think that the present area of local administration, even where there are country School Boards, is too small to enable that to be done, that I believe this is a great measure of educational reform, and will be fraught with great advantages.

The noble Lord who last spoke made great fun with regard to Clause 23, which, he said, made a division between elementary and higher education in the continuation schools. That seems to me a reasonable distinction. Surely, if the local school has not been able to do the work of elementary education, it is fair that it should continue it for the time that it is necessary in the evening school, but I do not think that that part of the work of a continuation school should be mixed up with the higher functions of dealing with those who, having regularly attended their elementary school, and acquired a knowledge of elementary subjects, now that they are going into their life's work, desire to attend evening schools and gain higher education. I think it is a reasonable thing that those two functions should be kept separate—that the one should be done more largely at the expense of the locality, and that the other should be under the control of the higher education authority of the district. I know quite well that there are other speakers to follow, and I do not desire to occupy more time than is justly my due, but there is one point which has been already the subject of some, I hardly like to use the word interruption, but of some interpolation on my part to the noble Lord, the Chairman of the London School Board. It is part of the case against this Bill that for the first time it will impose, as it is said, a new set of religious tests on the teaching profession. I associate myself entirely with the arguments of the right rev. Prelates the Bishops of London and Winchester, that if you are to have these denominational schools at all, if you are to have denominational or dogmatic religious instruction, it is only the due of those who desire it and who are anxious to see it properly carried out that they should be allowed to secure that the individual who is to give that instruction is fitted both by belief and by training to do so. But in answer to that the noble Lord the Chairman of, the London School Board, says:—"Look what magnificent religious instruction there is in the schools of the London School Board." I have always heard, and what the noble Lord said tonight confirms it, that in that matter the London School Board was a model Board, that it took a great deal of pains to secure efficient religious instruction so far as the statutory authority under which it acts allowed it to do. The noble Lord's argument, and the illustrations he gave us, seemed to me altogether to destroy the fictions put forth from the opposite side that we are providing a new series of tests for the teaching profession.

EARL SPENCER: I beg the noble Lord's pardon for interrupting him The complaint is not of new tests, but of tests under very aggravating circumstances on account of the enormous increase in public grants.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: That is exactly an illustration of what I ventured to say at the beginning of my speech, that noble Lords opposite will not have regard to the elementary problems of the situation. I understand that argument if you are to have no denominational instruction at all, but it is part of my case that you must maintain, in accordance with the feeling of the immense majority of the people of this country, denominational instruction; and if you are to have that instruction it follows, as a matter of right and of fairness, that you must allow the religious denomination, whatever it may be, to satisfy itself of the fitness of the person who is to teach its creed. I will assume that the religious instruction given in the schools of the London School Board is everything that its most enthusiastic admirers say it is. But I ask noble Lords opposite, do they expect us to be satisfied with the teaching of those doctrines unless we are sure that the people who are engaged in their teaching believe in them, in their sacredness and in everything that they mean to those of us who do believe in them? I can conceive of nothing more repugnant to any man of right feeling than going through the form of attempting to teach those doctrines unless he genuinely believes in them and has been trained in the duty of teaching them. It is on that ground that I think it is useless to pretend that you can avoid having some sort of test of the efficiency of those who are to be engaged in the teaching profession when this subject is part, as it is in the schools of the London School Board, of the normal course of instruction. I will only touch on two other matters. The first is that of finance. I cannot go into all the details which were brought before us by the noble Lord who spoke last. I do not know that it would be a very fruitful theme of discussion here, because, after all, I doubt very much whether we can touch those Clauses at all. But this I say, that so far as secular instruction is concerned, whether in elementary or secondary schools, the object of the Government is that there shall be equal financial support for secular instruction in every class of school, and I do not think it can be said that those who want denominational teaching in addition to the secular instruction are paying less than they ought to pay for their privilege. Those who desire denominational teaching have provided, and will provide in the future, at least a fair share of the cost. One other point. We have been threatened over and over again. We were pointedly threatened in the peroration of the noble Lord who spoke last that this was to be no permanent settlement of the question. The Opposition are, when they come into power, to reverse this iniquitous Bill. They are to get a mandate from the country for its reversal. That will have at least one advantage for us, for we shall then know, at any rate, what is the scheme they propose in its place.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I never made any promise as to what a future Liberal Government would do. I am not in a position to do so. What I referred to was the innate confusion which must come about by this Bill being a partial settlement and not a complete one.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I do not wish to put on the noble Lord any argument which he did not use, but we were distinctly told by the noble Lord the Leader of the Opposition last night, and also I think by Lord Tweedmouth, that in all probability it would be their object to reverse this legislation and to substitute something in its place. Then, at any rate, we shall know the issue we have to meet. When they do that they will, at any rate, have to say what their scheme is, and then will be the time for us to see whether their difficulties will or will not be greater than those which we have had to encounter, and which, I think, we have successfully surmounted. I apologise to the House for taking up so much time, but I could not, after the pointed challenges that were made, sit altogether silent in regard to this debate.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, I cannot but think that the present aspect of your Lordship's House to some degree represents the attitude of the country towards this Bill. The empty seats represent somewhat faithfully the attitude of the laity of the Church towards this question, and the indifference which they feel towards the Bill. The large attendance on the Episcopal Benches shows, on the other hand, how great is the interest taken by the higher Prelates of the Church in the Bill. So also the speeches have reflected the opinions which are held in the country. Some of the most destructive criticism of the Bill has come from those who are, nominally, its supporters. I should like to associate myself with what fell from Viscount Goschen last night, when he expressed his deep regret that the fog of religious controversy had involved the whole question. I wish he had pursued the investigation of the cause of this fog of religious controvery. It is not the fault of noble Lords who sit on this side of the House; it is inherent in the Bill itself. When we consider that the Church of England claims by this Bill so large a share in the management of religious and secular education in this country, the noble Viscount should not be surprised at the amount of controversy which has been aroused. The Church of England makes a somewhat exaggerated claim in this matter. Her position is not that of the Churches of other countries. When we speak of the Christianity of France, our thoughts turn at once to the Roman Catholicism of that country. In this country things are very different, and, having regard to the great Nonconformist movement, surely it is inadequate that a Bill dealing with religious teaching should take into account only the Church of England. The right rev. Prelate has spoken as if the voluntary schools were the private property of the Church of England. This is far from being the case. In the first place, large sums of money have been contributed from the State to the voluntary schools. A Blue Book was recently presented to your Lordships in which the large sums of money presented by the Treasury are set forth with much clearness. I shall not weary the House with any lengthy statistics, but your Lordships will be able from your own examination of this Blue Book to ascertain that in many counties, and in many dioceses, generally a quarter, and sometimes as much as a half, has been contributed to the erection of the voluntary schools. More than that, the trust deeds by which these schools are managed do not in any way convey them as a property to the Church of England. They are maintained partly for religious education, and partly for secondary education, and even the model trust deeds of the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church themselves lay down that religious instruction shall be in accordance with the principles of the

Church, but that "due regard is to be had" to the secular education of the children.

It is obviously impossible to separate the interest of the Church from the interest of the State in the voluntary schools. They are simply ordinary charitable foundations, and those who have subscribed to the voluntary schools would indeed be injured if the schools were diverted to any other interest. It seems to me, therefore, that we have heard a great deal of wild talk on the subject of the closing of the schools in the event of the Bill not being passed in exact harmony with the wishes of the Church of England. If any such thing were done it would be necessary for the Church in the first place to repay the sums of money she has obtained from the State for the building of these schools. What might be an ideal position for the Church of England was laid down by the Diocesan Inspector for London, who said—

> "There is only one object that the supporters of voluntary schools need be anxious to fight for, and that is ability to teach their own children the faith of their forefathers in all its fulness."

I do not think any noble Lord on this side of the House would raise any objection if the Church of England asked no more than that. But when the Church of England asks for some 60,000 appointments in what is practically the Civil Service of the country, and for the management of those public institutions to which the State contributes already £4,000,000 a year, and to which the Church in future will contribute scarcely £60,000 a year, it seems to me the Church of England goes beyond what is a just and fair claim. I wish that the right rev. Prelates could be persuaded to trust in the people a little more. If the right rev. Prelates will not think me disrespectful, I should like to say that they remind me of a row of boys standing tremulously on the brink of a chilly ocean. I think if they would only take the plunge into the sea of public opinion they would not sink, but would enjoy the exercise and find it invigorating and beneficial. There is one question to which I am most anxious to obtain an answer. We hear a great deal, if not in this House at least outside, with regard to the undenominational system of education in the board schools. There are many earnest laymen in the Church of England who are perplexed that the right rev. Prelates should be willing to neglect the Church of England children who are in the board schools. Why should the Church of England children in the board schools be neglected while there is so much insistance on definite dogmatic teaching in voluntary schools? Is this dogmatic teaching necessary in the voluntary schools and unnecessary for Church of England children in the board schools? Why is not some protection claimed under this Bill for the latter? Most of your Lordships will remember what is the amount of dogmatic teaching given in our great public schools. It does seem to me that as long as Members of this and the other House are content that their children should receive instruction of the kind given in those great public schools, it is unnecessary to insist that the children of the poor should receive dogmatic instruction.

There was one remark which fell from the noble Duke when he introduced this Bill, to which I should specially like to call attention. He spoke of the absurdity of a child of fourteen being under different management from a child of fifteen, and he spoke of this Bill as doing something to remedy the inconsistency. It is difficult to see where and in what way that inconsistency is removed. There are the boroughs of over 10,000, and the urban districts of over 20,000, which are excluded from the operation of the County Council in respect of elementary education, but the authority for secondary and technical education will be the County Council. I think it is inconvenient that that should be the case. The establishment of a continuous system, which would have allowed a child to go from elementary to secondary instruction under the same management would have been far more desirable. In the county of Essex there will be two authorities for secondary education—the County Council with its education committee, and the Borough Council of West Ham with its education committee.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: West Ham is a county borough.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: There will be, in addition, eleven authorities of elementary education, made up of the two Councils I have just mentioned—the County Council and the Council of West Ham—and the authorities of the nine small areas which are either boroughs of over 10,000, or urban districts of over 20,000.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Council of West Ham will be an entirely separate authority.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: Since the mention of one of the authorities which the Bill creates confuses the noble Duke, I will leave West Ham out of the question altogether. I will give the noble Duke another illustration from a single parish in Yorkshire. There will be one authority in that parish for secondary education, namely, the County Council committee. In addition to that, there will be no less than nine authorities for elementary education—the County Council committee and the authorities of the eight small areas within that one parish. I could give another instance where in the West Riding of Yorkshire there will be six authorities for secondary education—the County Council committee of the West Riding and the five County Boroughs which happen to be within that area, and in that one county there will be fifteen authorities for elementary education. The noble Duke has described the Bill as being the natural offspring of the Act of 1870. That seems to me a curious expression to use in connection with a Bill the chief object of which is to kill the School Boards which were the children of the Act of 1870. That is the deed of an unnatural offspring. I think we on this side of the House have a right to complain that these new bodies have been introduced without mature deliberation, that we had no hint beforehand that they were going to be established, that they are being introduced at one fell swoop, and no attempt is being made to find out whether they will be able efficiently to discharge the work which is to be entrusted to them. For my own part, having regard to the share which, at any rate, some County Councils have taken in extending the work of technical instruction, I am not very hopeful of the way in which they will discharge their new duties. An extraordinary thing about the new county authority created by the Bill is that whilst it is allowed the help of managers it is not allowed to choose them. Those noble Lords on this side of the House who think that the education will remain in the same hands as in the past, namely, in the hands of the denominational managers, are surely in the right, because the share which the County Council will take will be almost limited to paying the bill. I wish that noble Lords would imagine a similar principle applied to any other business in the country. Imagine a farmer who was told that in managing his farm he must do it with the help of the Parish Council, of whose members he is only allowed to nominate a third; imagine the London County Council being told that they were to manage the business of London through a Committee of the Carlton Club; and you have something of the position of the new education committees throughout the country. What this Bill fails to do in regard to secondary education has already been referred to by noble Lords, and I have no desire to detain your Lordships longer. For my own part, I have a high ideal as regards the educational system of this country. I think it should be one that would allow English children to be educated at least as well as children in any other country in the world. Our material is as good as that which exists elsewhere; it is only the machinery which is at fault. If I saw any prospect that this Bill would improve that machinery, I would willingly vote for it. But as it appears to me that the measure will not have that result, but will tend rather to retard the progress of education, I shall give my vote against it.

*THE EARL OF LYTTON: My Lords, I feel some reluctance in addressing your Lordships on this occasion, because I have no claim to speak as an educational expert. But there was a remark which fell last night from the lips of Lord Coleridge which gives me no little encouragement on this occasion. He told your Lordships that experts were an unreliable body of people at the best, and he went so far as to say that the educational expert was the greatest fraud of the lot. Well, my Lords, that is a phrase which is not very complimentary to such people, for instance, as the Chairman of the London School Board, who, I believe, is the greatest educational expert amongst noble Lords on the other side of the House. But if it is not complimentary to him, it is, at any rate, encouraging to me. I confess that it has been very difficult for the lay mind to understand exactly what this Bill really does do. I think that the Parliamentary draftsman has in this case been even more successful than usual in concealing his meaning by the skilful use of words. We have heard discussions in the House of Commons in which the most eminent lawyers have been entirely unable to agree as to the meaning of certain Clauses, and we have had evidence in this House of the obscurity in which the Bill is wrapped. Lord Coleridge raised some doubt in the debate last night as to the exact meaning of Clause 2 of the Bill, and whether it placed an optional or a mandatory duty upon the new educational authority to deal with the needs of education in the country. Well, my Lords, when we turn from the Bill itself to the speeches of those who profess to understand it, our confusion is even greater. We find, on the one hand, the Prime Minister—who, if anybody understands it, does, I suppose, understand the Bill by now—we find the Prime Minister telling us that the Bill establishes complete popular control over all the secular education of the country. But noble Lords on the other side of the House tell us that it does nothing of the sort, that on the contrary it establishes a system of nomination and selection. Then the noble Duke who introduced the Bill laid great stress on the fact that it established one authority for the schools of the county, and noble Lords opposite if they are not agreed as to the exact number, are all agreed that the authorities are more than one. Lord Burghclere made a calculation which brought the authorities out at eight, and the noble Lord who spoke last discovered five and twenty in one county. My only surprise is that upon that sort of calculation noble Lords stopped where they did. I wonder that they did not count up the number of County and Borough Councils in the country and tell us that the authorities ran into many hundreds. Then again, last night Lord Ribblesdale had a good deal to say on the subject of tests, and he tried to prove that the Bill established a religious test in the selection of school teachers, and he so puzzled the noble Duke thereby that, for a moment, he was unable to recognise the Bill he had introduced a short time previously. In the midst of all this confusion and difference of opinion, the unlearned in this matter must be left to draw their own conclusions, and support or condemn the Bill according to the result they believe it will have, whatever its meaning on the education, of the country.

It is because I believe that the result will be far-reaching; because I believe that its influence on the educational system of the country will be in a large measure for good, and purely for good; because I believe it will remedy many of those defects in our present system which we all deplore, that I venture to think the Bill is the most important and the wisest piece of legislation which has been before Parliament for many years. The chief opposition of the Bill has centred round two points—the new educational authority which is set up and the question of religious education. In regard to the first, we are, I think, all agreed that the schools should be placed under the control of one authority. We all deplore the evils of the present system of subdivided authority. It is only when we come to the question of what that new authority should be that there is any difference of opinion between us. Of the two existing authorities for education, the Government in this Bill have chosen the County and the Town Council, whereas noble Lords opposite think they ought to have chosen the School Board. It is not for me to say which would be the better of the two on educational grounds, but there appears to me to be two very good reasons for choosing these great local governing bodies to undertake education. In the first place, they are already in existence, whereas, if the Government had set about establishing universal School Boards, they would have had in many cases to call those bodies into existence. The second reason, and the one to which I attach greater importance, is this: If these great municipal bodies are to fulfil the duties which they were created to perform they must be prepared to accept, and Parliament must be prepared to entrust to them, an ever increasing measure of the public business of this country, and I can think of no more important duty, and no duty which they are better qualified to undertake, than that of regulating our educational system. As time goes on the duties of these bodies must necessarily increase and largely develop, and I think it is a wise step to place this new responsibility upon them, so that, instead of being in any position of possible contact in the future with another local authority in a matter of such great local interest as education, they will themselves be the people who have to provide, maintain, and keep efficient that machinery which is to keep this country in a position to compete with its industrial and commercial rivals. I should like to say one word with regard to the education committee of this new authority. One noble Lord last night—I think it was Lord Ribblesdale—declared that the Government were worshipping a fetish in this matter in their use of the word "co-ordination."

LORD RIBBLESDALE: I mentioned the word "co-ordination," but "fetish" is not a word I ever use.

*THE EARL OF LYTTON: If that was not his metaphor, it was this, that co-ordination was put forward as a sort of "Mesopotamia" in which all that was wrong was put right. I admit that co-ordination has been the chief object of the Government in framing this measure. May it not be answered in return that noble Lords opposite have their Mesopotamia also, and that their Mesopotamia is the expression "*ad hoc* authority," a phrase they are always using in their criticisms of the Bill. In the first place, they tell us that these County Councils are not elected for the express purpose of dealing with education, and they go on to say that the committees which will do all the work of the County Councils are not elected by the people at all. It is quite true that the County Councils are not elected for any one specific purpose, but they are elected to perform adequately and efficiently all the duties which fall upon them as local administrators, precisely in the same manner as the representatives of the people in Parliament are elected not for any one specific purpose but in order to safeguard the interests of the country and to carry out such measures as they think necessary for its government. Noble Lords opposite say that the Government has no mandate from the people for this measure, but that is only another instance of their worship of this particular phrase. They desire an *ad hoc* authority from the people for every piece of legislation which is introduced into Parliament. For my part, I think that if the Government had failed to undertake this most pressing duty of organising our educational system after the conclusion of peace, they would not only have forfeited the confidence of their supporters but would have brought on themselves the condemnation of every patriotic Englishman. And so it is with the County Councils. They are elected to fulfil many duties, and they appoint in turn a number of Committees to do their work. As Lord Northbrook pointed out in an earlier stage of this debate, all the work of the County Councils is done by committees, but by committees of the Council, and not of the Carlton Club, as the noble Lord who spoke last seemed to think. I would remind your Lordships that this committee will be composed of men, and of women, too, if necessary, who will be the best qualified to advise the Council on educational matters. It is true they will not be elected directly by the people, but I do not think they will be any less efficient on that account, because they will be elected by a body who will certainly put the interest of education before anything else, inasmuch as they will be responsible to the people for the efficiency of that education.

I pass to the question whether the Bill does or does not maintain the principle of religious liberty. Many noble Lords have regretted that the subject of religion should be brought at all into this discussion. I can only congratulate your Lordships on the uncontroversial spirit in which your debate on this Bill has been carried on, but I fear that to exclude religion altogether from our discussion would be impossible. It is admitted by everybody to be the duty of the State to organise the control of education, but directly you deal with education you are immediately and inevitably brought in contact with the religious beliefs and disbeliefs of the people. Education must deal not only with the intellectual but also with the moral and spiritual development of mankind. I think the people of this country are divided into two large bodies of opinion—those who think that religion is the most important subject in the education of children, and those, on the other hand, who think that religion should play no part whatever in a national system of education. But if the State were to decide in favour of the latter it could not any longer claim a position of impartiality, whereas, if it decides in favour of religious teaching, there are still two duties which the State has to perform. One is to provide a sufficient number of schools for the children of those people who do not desire religious instruction of a denominational character, and to hold the balance evenly between the different sects in those schools where religicus instruction is given. I believe that was the scheme aimed at in 1870, but there was a defect in it from an educational point of view, inasmuch as it did not give equally good secular education to every child in the country. It is obviously unfair that any child, because it desired to have religious instruction, should be placed at a disadvantage as regards its secular education. This present Bill is a great advance in that respect, because for the first time, secular education in every school in the country is made the direct care of the State. Viscount Llandaff made an eloquent speech last night in which he pointed out how much the Roman Catholics of this country dreaded interference with the teaching by their priests in Roman Catholic schools, but he forgot, I think, that the terms of this Bill which deal with the election and provision of managers secure that in every Roman Catholic school, as in every other denominational school, the majority of the board of managers shall be Roman Catholics. The discipline of his Church will, I think, be sufficient to safeguard the priest even in the event of the Kenyon-Slaney Clause being retained in the Bill, against any interference on the part of managers who are themselves Roman Catholics. I have said that the object of education provided by the State should be, on the one hand, not to undermine religious influence, and, on the other, to give no unfair advantage to any sect; and it is because I believe that that is what this measure will do that I give it my support tonight. I believe that if all persons in this country, of whatever shade of opinion they may be, will but co-operate one with the other in the interest of education as a whole, and show a real spirit of tolerance for the susceptibilities—aye, and the superstitions where they are so regarded—of those who think differently on religious matters, they will find in this Bill a workable *modus vivendi*. In view of the great position this country is called upon to hold in the world, and in view of the ever-increasing demand for national energy and vigour, we cannot afford to neglect any of those springs whereby the country draws its life and health. I look forward to the cessation of all religious controversies when once this Bill has passed into law, and I hope we shall then see the forces of religion ranged side by side with the forces that make for knowledge and for progress, and that in the training of future generations these forces will be found yoked in all excellence of noble end, and jointly striving to raise the standard of human endeavours.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: My Lords, this is an interesting occasion, interesting chiefly as a means of discussion, because, although the noble Duke in his peroration, for the purposes of his peroration, seemed to hint at the possibility of the House of Lords rejecting the Bill, no one for a moment thinks that there is any possibility of the kind. We all know perfectly well what is the fate of a Bill produced by a Conservative Government in this House, just as surely as we know what is the fate of a Bill produced by a Liberal Government in this House: and, therefore, all we could hope for in these two nights was for opportunities of discussion, of explanation and protest—unavailing discussion for the purposes of the vote, unavailing protest, and, I fear, so far as my hearing has carried me throughout these two days, unavailing explanation as well. There is another element of unreality in this discussion. Frequent allusion has been made to the fight which has been carried on in the House of Commons for the last seven months against this Bill. That fight, it is truly said, has been in the main carried on by Nonconformists, of whom the great protagonist has been Mr. Lloyd-George, who has fought this Bill with a readiness of resource to which speakers on both sides of the House have done justice. But here in this House we have no representative of that great living force against this Bill, and we are compelled to discuss it quietly, intimately, as it were, between ourselves, as members of the Established Churches of England and Scotland. That gives an unreality to this discussion which cannot fail to mark the contrast with the discussions in the other House of Parliament.

There is a point to which I wish to call attention before I go any further, and I hope I shall not have to detain you so long as some of my noble friends have detained you in the course of this debate. It is a point which I myself do not fully understand. It is the almost morbid haste with which this Bill has been forced upon this House. It was read yesterday morning in the House of Commons for the third time. A few vigilant Peers connected with subordinate offices in the Government were kept in great discomfort in this House—although I trust that the Hereditary Steward attended to their requirements—they were kept up to a late hour and at great personal inconvenience in order to read the Bill a first time. They could hardly have snatched a moment of well-earned repose before they were called on to read it a second time yesterday afternoon. There is some reason, I do not doubt, for this. The noble Duke yesterday began his speech by a long preamble in which he alluded to the unexampled delays which the Bill had encountered in the House of Commons. He even compared that delay unfavourably with the delay of the Home Rule Bill of 1893. The Bill, as I understand him—for I have not taken the trouble to check his calculation, but have taken it in full faith as he gave it—had taken some ten days longer than the Home Rule Bill of 1893.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I said longer in Committee.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: The noble Duke is singularly frank and honest in making that admission. I take it as longer in Committee. But I think he forgets that there is one underlying difference between the two cases. Those who opposed the Home Rule Bill in the House of Commons in 1893 were animated by as full and strenuous a conviction as any that has animated the Nonconformists and others who opposed this Bill in the House of Commons. But they were not fighting with their backs to the wall. They knew that there was a resource here, and that even if they were defeated by the forces, the united forces, which then supported Mr. Gladstone's Government, they had only to bring the Bill across the lobby to the House of Lords and they were perfectly certain of its ignominious defeat. I hope that this policy of haste, of almost indecent haste—for this is a Bill which interests every one of your Lordships just as much as every member of the House of Commons—will not be carried into the proceedings of the Committee. I trust we shall have a full and fair warning of the Amendments that are going to be introduced in Committee, and time to consider them. Let me allude to one. There are one or two subjects in this Bill which are treated as skeletons in the cupboard. Government speakers, sometimes, I think, are about to approach them, but then they make a graceful flourish and do not come near them. To one of them I will allude presently, but one of them I will name at once. It is the Amendment which has given a permanent place in history, I trust, to my honourable school-fellow, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney. I am sorry that, in an unavoidable absence from the House, I did not hear what has been described to me as the eloquent speech of the right rev. Prelate who presides over the diocese of London. He says, as it is reported to me, that the Amendment has excited widespread alarm and justifiable indignation throughout the United Kingdom.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON: Among the clergy.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Among the clergy! I thank the right rev. Prelate for the qualification. It is most important. But if it has excited these feelings amongst the clergy, it has excited an equal feeling, shall I say of exultation? I will not go so far as that—but certainly of relief, among the great mass of the laity. And what I think we have had a right to ask for from the Government all through this discussion, and as to which we have not had one syllable, one hint, one breath of their intention, is this—what do they propose to do with regard to that Amendment, which now forms a substantial portion of the Bill? We hear rumours of Amendments. The Attorney General has announced in the House of Commons that the Government will introduce an Amendment making clear what we had hoped, after the discussions in the House of Commons, was perfectly transparent, that which is the intention and object of the Amendment. Then we hear—I do not know if I may attach faith to the rumour—that Lord James of Hereford is about to introduce an Amendment also with regard to it. Whether these two Amendments are the same, and whether they have the same object, are points on which I think this House has a right to be enlightened before it is asked to go into Committee on this Bill. We have heard a great deal about the advantages which are conferred by this Bill on the various branches of education. We have had the blessed word co-ordination reiterated almost *ad nauseam.* We have had explanations of that term from both sides of the House. The noble Duke yesterday gave us a list of the various reforms which have been introduced by this Bill and for which we are to be grateful. Among them was some advantage to be gained by technical education. As to these advantages I will only say this, that you could have had the Bill, with all these advantages, through in six weeks or two months if you had chosen to leave out the bedrock principle which I am about to advert to.

But with regard to technical education I will make one remark in passing. I am not quite so certain that the advantages conferred by this Bill on technical education are so great as is generally supposed. It repeals the Bills of 1889 and 1891, I think. No doubt it gives a greater power of raising money, a greater power of giving money for that purpose. But in the Bill of 1889 there were two provisions which were of greater importance, and to which I should like to call the attention of His Majesty's Government. The first was this, that there was to be complete religious freedom in all the schools which were to be assisted by that grant, and in the second place—I would venture to call the noble Duke's particular attention to this—that every public authority contributing in any way to the support of a school was to be represented in proportion to its contribution on the governing body of that school. And therefore it is without the slightest surprise that, on referring to the schedule of this Bill, I find that the very first Act which is to be repealed is that of 1889. Before I proceed to what I consider to be the main principle of this Bill, let me say this, that while you say on six or seven heads that you have conferred material boons on the nation—boons which could have been conferred in much less time and by a much smaller majority than you possess—you have done nothing, or practically nothing, to meet the two grievances which have been admitted by the Government themselves through the mouth of the Prime Minister, I mean the grievance of the single-school parishes and the grievance of the practical exclusion of the Nonconformists from the training colleges of this country.

But, after all, these are ancillary matters. On all these matters we could have arrived at some agreement with you. There is nothing to draw a broad line of separation between us here. There was always opportunity for compromise and agreement on these points. Where there is no opportunity and no field for compromise or agreement is in the treatment you have chosen to adopt to what are called the voluntary schools. Some call them Church of England Schools, though my noble friend, Lord Beauchamp, in the very pointed speech he addressed to us to-night, submitted reasons why they should not be considered, in the strictest sense of the word, to be Church of England schools. With regard to that I should like to contrast his opinion with an authority I am afraid I must place higher than his—that is, the authority of the Prime Minister. He has given us in all their nakedness, if I may so express myself, his views of the schools which you are about to maintain entirely—except as regards structure—out of public money. He says these schools are not State schools, nor are they in the acceptation of my noble friend Church schools; they are "public elementary schools belonging to the Church of England"—that is their full style and title. Well, I think that my noble friend Lord Beauchamp gave us some reasons showing that they are not so entirely the property of the Church of England as that definition would appear to imply. But I take the definition as true, and I rest the case upon that definition. That definition is this—that these are schools for elementary education belonging to a great, wealthy, and powerful ecclesiastical corporation, and that you propose to deal with such schools as no other country deals with such schools in the whole civilised world. Now you are going to take these schools under your wing, you are already—though they are said by the Prime Minister to be the property of the Church of England—you have already given them grants amounting to at least one-and-a-half millions a year. You are now going to take them entirely under your protection, and with a *minimum* public representation you are going to find the whole of the funds for the instruction given in those schools out of various sources of revenue in the country.

The noble Marquess at the head of the Education Department told us to-day that this Bill is supported by some eminent Liberals. I do not think it is supported by any considerable number of eminent Liberals, but their weight may be greater than their number. At any rate, he must not be unaware that these provisions of the Bill shock a very considerable number of eminent Conservatives. There is a name never mentioned in Ireland or in this House without honour, the name of the eldest son of the Duke of Abercorn, who certainly represents a very considerable body of Protestant feeling in the North of Ireland, and he has written saying that he cannot support this provision. There is another member of this House, Lord Manvers, and there are Sir C. Welby, Sir J. Dickson-Poynder, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Younger, and other Members I might mention who say, though they are staunch supporters of his Majesty's present advisers, they cannot support this provision of the Bill.

Now, there is a second point in the Bill up to which I have observed several members of the Government skirmish, but which they have never actually touched. The only member of this House who, speaking from a Government point of view, has had the courage to do so and to grasp the matter with a resolution worthy of a better cause, is the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Winchester, who delivered such an extremely able, eloquent and interesting speech tonight. Now what were the principles the Bishop laid down? He laid down as his first maxim that we owe a great debt of gratitude to the clergy for their exertions in the cause of education when the laity were indifferent to it, and I gather that we are to infer from that that they have a claim for this extra assistance which is now about to be given them by His Majesty's Government. He had the unkindness to quote a memorial addressed by a Committee of the Quarter Sessions of Hampshire, in which was displayed a melancholy and regrettable indifference to education. The right rev. Prelate claimed that the Church had a right to expect a contribution at our hands, and it seems to me that exactly the same claim might be made on behalf of monasteries, who could say they had a prior claim for having preserved learning when it was perishing in every other part of the world; and perhaps it may not be beyond the province of some members of your Lordships' House to propose that some grant be accorded to them, in recognition of their services in former years. The right rev. Prelate intimated also that these exertions on behalf of education had already met with some portion of their reward in the amount of confidence with which the clergy were treated in School Board districts. Some of them, he said, figured in exalted positions on School Boards in large towns, and I am not in the least prepared to deny that. But he must recollect that in other cases distinguished ladies, and even Roman Catholic priests, owing to the cumulative vote, occupied prominent positions on those Boards. So it does not do to lay too much stress on the gratitude of the laity to the clergy, for their exertions in this respect.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: What I referred to was not the fact that such clergy are members of School Boards, but that they are the elected Chairmen of the Board, and such election does not turn upon the cumulative vote, but is due simply to their educational capacity.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I am quite aware of that, but the chairman is elected after the Board meets, and, therefore, the position of chairman is a comparatively limited expression of popular support or gratitude. Well, as I said before, the rev. Prelate claims that the control in return for the cash advanced by His Majesty's Government is practically complete over secular education given in the schools. Is that so? The secular education in the schools will be controlled by a Board of six managers on the spot. Of these, four, as we know, will be what are called foundation managers, a close corporation instituted in most trust deeds by the clergy. The minor local authority which has not the expenditure of the funds will appoint another manager, and there is only one representative of the local authority for public control. What does this mean? Contrast the treatment of provided or board schools. In the board schools the managers will all be appointed by the local authority. But in these schools, so fully maintained out of the public funds, and over which, according to the right rev. Prelate, the public control is so complete, the local authority will appoint exactly one-sixth. But the right rev. Prelate pursued another method in dealing with this question, in which a great example has been given by no less a person than the Prime Minister. He treated the whole question of managers as if it were a question of the appointment of the teachers; and he pointed out that the appointment of the teacher must naturally lie with the managers, and that the teacher must be a Church of England man in accordance with the general character of the school. If that were the only function of the manager, surely it would have been more generous and wise of the Church of England to throw the election of the managers somewhat more open. There would have been no difficulty in coming to an arrangement, if that were the managers' only function, by which the teacher should be limited to the Church of England in schools which have belonged to that denomination, and by which there should be a far more liberal representation of the popular element on the board. But the right rev. Prelate knows as well as the Prime Minister that that is not the only function of the managers. That is why they fight so hard for this two-thirds majority on the Board. Therefore it is not by asserting an artificial control which does not really exist that you can convince the small Opposition in this House, or the much greater mass in the country that this system of management of State-supported schools is either expedient or just.

I should have thought that the very liberal provisions of this Bill would have been sufficient to satisfy the Church of England. They are to receive the whole of the cost of the teaching in the schools. They are, according to some sound calculations, by the receipt of fees and endowments and the rent of teachers' houses, to make not a bad thing even of the structural maintenance of the schools. I will not insist on that point, because we have had no figures upon them, and the Government do not seem very anxious to provide the figures. But, at any rate, surely it is a pretty good bargain to make a contribution which is as one to twelve, equal to a two-thirds majority in the management of the school. Why, if that system of rule-of-three were to prevail in this House, the Liberal Party would be in control of this House. At any rate, it is not an illiberal provision. But I am sorry to find from the speeches of the most rev. Primate and Lord Goschen that they are by no means satisfied with what is being done under the Bill. I do not want to enter into even the most friendly controversy with the venerable and pathetic figure who is not with us tonight, and whom we heard with so much pleasure and reverence last night. But I trust that my noble friend Lord Goschen will allow me to point out that his attitude in regard to this Bill—the inadequacy of its provisions and the apprehension they caused him—reminded me very much of the incident of the embassy of the children of Gideon in the Old Testament. The children of Gideon, in order to produce a certain effect, came with mouldy bread and ragged clothes and empty vessels to the children of Israel. They imposed on Joshua; but I doubt whether the representation of the noble Lord will impose upon the people of England at this moment. To make them imagine at this juncture, after all that has been done, that the bargain which has been made by the Church of England is a hard bargain, is more than even all the rhetoric of the noble Viscount, who brings to us all the freshness of a House of Commons delivery, could achieve.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: I said that I did not deal with the bargain at all. I abstained from touching that question. The noble Earl must have misunderstood some of my remarks.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I fear it was the most rev. Primate; but as he is absent, I trust that my noble friend will not mind bearing his share of the burden on this occasion. At one point the noble Viscount almost moved me to the verge of tears. I struggled with emotion as I heard of the rural parish which is privileged to have the noble Viscount as lord of the manor. It seems to be a perfect Garden of Eden in which he wanders; apportioning the fruit of the tree of knowledge with no sparing hand, and materially assisted by the vicar of the parish. Why, he told us in accents which had quite a note of pathos in them, that so large-minded was the vicar in the parish that, at his own instance and without any hint, as I gather, from my noble friend, he took to his arms a single Nonconformist—a single Nonconformist, because there were many Nonconformists in the school—and I presume that, with the help of my noble friend and the other managers, he felt even safe, with their protection, in the presence of that ravening wolf. I do not deny that there are crumpled rose leaves in that garden of Eden. There is the question of pictures—that was a very terrible scene which my noble friend presented to us. Then there were the visits of inspectors which my noble friend resented in a manner which caused me some surprise. There is an inspector who came to see him, whom he mentioned, I think, the Government inspector; then there is the diocesan inspector, whom he did not mention, yet who does, I think, pay visits to the voluntary schools. And then he was afraid of a new inspector to be appointed by the local authority, as to whom he has been reassured by the Minister for Education this evening that the strictest economy will be used in regard to inspectors, and, therefore, we may hope that my noble friend will not be unnecessarily harassed by that inspector. The inspector of the past he cannot do away with, or the impression he has left upon my noble friend's mind, but he will endeavour to guard my noble friend against the depredations of the inspector of the future. The inspector of the past is a pestilent fellow; he goes to my noble friend's school and finds a picture, a descriptive picture, as I understand it, and, not being satisfied with the picture, he orders another at once. He is apt to do the same with the school books and works of history provided. But my noble friend may be at ease. The inspector may change the pictures and books as often as he likes; my noble friend will not have to pay; for the future that will come out of the pocket of the taxpayer and ratepayer, and, even if every inspector brings a new picture and a new book with which to supply the school, they will be supplied subject only to the control of the one-sixth representation of the local authority on the Board of management. That brings me to the question who these managers are, because, after all, that is really the point of capital importance in this Bill. The right rev. Prelate the Bishop of London described them—I hope by an inadvertence, an ungrateful inadvertence, if I may say so—as Squire Westerns the other day in his speech at the Albert Hall.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON: May I interrupt the noble Earl? There was a misapprehension with regard to this in the House of Commons. I was quoting from a letter which I had in my hand, and in which that application was made. I did not make it.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I am delighted to have given this opportunity to the right rev. Prelate of disclaiming it. It was so unlike his gracious manner in private and public life that I thought there must be something wrong. Because, after all, it is not grateful to those who belong to this class—the former supporters of the voluntary schools, among whom I suppose I may reckon every member of the House I am now addressing—to describe them as Squire Westerns. As a squire, I think Squire Western's instincts were sound, but he was apt to express them in somewhat forcible language. Who are the managers who are really to have the control under this popular system?

We can tell by looking at the trust deeds. It is apparently a calumny, according to some of the orators we have heard, to accuse the Church of having too much control in matters of this kind. But according to the trust deeds the clergyman of the parish must be a member, and must be the chairman. And he must be chairman not merely with a vote, but with a casting vote. His curates must be members, he has the right to appoint all his curates, and in certain districts where you have three curates you will have these four managers. That is not really contemplated, I suppose, by the Government in their system of education. What is the constitution, what the electorate of these managers, and what is their tenure of office? On those points I should be very glad to receive some explanation from the Government tonight. They will be elected, I suppose, next year. Every subscriber of a sovereign, I think, according to the trust deeds, has a right to vote. I suppose some precaution will be taken by the Government against subscribing sovereigns for the purpose of getting votes. As far as I know, as the foundation managers are to be elected under the trust deeds, there is no such guarantee that that may not be done. What is the duration of their tenure? It is for life, it is perpetual, there is no limitation, they can go on for ever.

Well, let us see how that works. You have schools to which the Church of England, or the supporters of the Church of England, undoubtedly have contributed large funds, but since the building of those schools the Government grants have been growing and growing until at last the sum contributed by the Government largely out-values the fee-simple of those schools. As years go on, if that system is to continue, that inequality will increase until at last the original cost of those schools will entirely disappear in the aggregate of the contributions made by the State. Yet these schools will always continue to be governed by two-thirds of the body which found the original sums of money, which have disappeared, and by only one-sixth of the local authority. Do you think this is a state of things that can continue? Do you call it equity, or justice, or common sense? You say this is a national system; I venture to say it is nothing but an ecclesiastical subsidy. I take another question, of which we have heard a great deal to-night, and that is the question of tests. The noble Duke spoke with some justifiable pride of his exertions in the cause of the removal of University tests, but he said this is a case which is widely different: These schools, he said, belong to the Church of England, and it is perfectly right that in the selection of teachers the Church should exact a test. My noble friend must excuse me for saying that these are the very arguments he rebutted so triumphantly thirty years ago. The colleges at Oxford and Cambridge—at Oxford, at any rate—made exactly the same claim, and with even greater justice. They were founded by great prelates, pious Churchmen, yet they pleaded, and in vain, at the knees of my noble friend that they might be allowed to preserve their tests for the Church of England. What is the difference now? I freely admit that in denominational schools, which are maintained mainly by the denomination, there may be as strict a denominational test for the teacher as you can exact; but I am bound to say that when you make these schools national, as far as you can, by the lavish expenditure of public money it is a monstrous claim in these days to make that the headships of these schools shall be closed to the Nonconformists of this country, and to maintain that this is a national system. The noble Viscount said that in a matter of this kind you have to consider the parents. I entirely agree with the remark; there is no part of his speech to which I subscribe so enthusiastically. What means have the Government taken to ascertain the wishes of the parents? Why, they had pressed upon them, when the Bill was in another place, more than one Amendment by which the parents should have been represented on the governing body of managers; they have always rejected them. I venture to say that if you adopt the principle of the noble Viscount and elicit the wishes of the parents in the selection of the managers, you will have gone a long way to settle the question of the denominational schools as regards the country at large.

Now, they say that there is no alternative to their scheme. If we have no alternative, we are in a very bad way, because even so enthusiastic a Churchman as Lord Hugh Cecil expressed in the last stages of the Bill in the House of Commons his misgiving that this Bill would never settle the religious question in this country, and in that view I am able entirely to concur. But are there no alternatives? There is the Scottish system. The noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland says (rather dogmatically) that the system is entirely suited to Scotland, but by no means suited to England. I do not deny that may be the case, but I do say this, that I believe the Nonconformists and all the opponents of this Bill as a mass would infinitely prefer the Scottish system to the plan of this Bill. And why is that? The right rev. Prelate taunted in his good-natured way, or, if that is too strong a word, he reproached, one of the opponents of the Bill with having used language at one time inconsistent with the acceptance of the Scottish system and having turned round to some acceptance of that system. Why was that? Because in the Scottish system there lies the essence of public control, and though the opponents of the Bill have all through as a body disliked and abhorred the application of public money to denominational teaching, yet they would prefer that alternative with popular control to having no popular control at all. Then there is another desperate course, which I admit is an heroic course, and one which noble Lords here would not be prepared to face, because they have nothing to do with finance. But I say frankly, not as an absolute statement, but comparatively, that as compared with the settlement in this Bill I would infinitely rather purchase or rent the schools of the country, or build new schools, so as to recover for the nation the birthright of all nations—its control of its system of education.

Sir Edward Clarke, at the Albert Hall meeting, said, amid frantic applause, that the schools were not for sale. I should be surprised if they were for sale after the passing of this Bill, because their value has been so materially raised by this Bill that they are almost beyond the resources of England to purchase. But I believe that, as compared with this Bill, if you are driven to that last and desperate course—as it is from some points of view—it would be better to purchase, or rent, or build than to keep the schools of this country under ecclesiastical subordination as they will be under this Bill. Then there is a third course. My Lords, you represent yourselves to be—and I am quite sure with truth and with honesty—a party of Imperialists. But let me say that while you are willing to take assistance from the Colonies in time of stress when they are willing to volunteer it, you are not quite so willing to receive the indication of policy which they also show you. The Colonies, young and vigorous countries, have long outstripped you in their educational course. They have shaken themselves loose from this ecclesiastical subordination. If you look all through Australia and Canada you will find a system as different from this as one system could be from another, but which conciliates the principles of liberty with the vital interests of religion. You have scripture lessons with facilities for dogmatic instruction at the beginning and end of the school hours in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, Tasmania, Manitoba, and New Brunswick; and in Ontario the Roman Catholics have accepted that system of education. In Queensland and New Zealand you have a similar system. I am bound to say that, I too, am an Imperialist, but I am an Imperialist all round. I am prepared to take the educational indications given by the Colonies as well as the more material assistance they give us in time of war.

My Lords, that is all I have to say. I am sorry to have detained you so long at this late hour. I confess that it is not with a light heart—though it is with a clear conscience—that I vote against this Bill. There is something intensely saddening in the whole scope of this measure. You might have made it a national measure; you have chosen to make it a Party measure. But what, I confess, is sadder still is the religious aspect of this question. That nineteen centuries after the birth of Christ the Reformed Churches of this country cannot agree among themselves upon a form of religious education which might be taught to children under fourteen years of age is, I think, a grave subject of reflection and meditation to the friends of all those Churches. I re-echo the eloquent eulogy passed upon the clergy of the Church of England by my noble friend Lord Goschen as to their exertions in our great cities. But I would go a little further, and while I remember the exertions of the Church of England, I do not forget those other Christian Churches that vie with her in the work of the reclamation of the wretched. But I maintain that these exertions of the clergy, however meritorious, do not give them the right to control the education of the country. It is for these reasons—that that control is one which prevents the system of education in this country from being national and efficient; that because, in my judgment, the provisions of the Bill with regard to taxation and representation strike a vital blow at one of the most treasured maxims of our Constitution; because you have unsettled a settlement which was, at least, tolerated, which produced peace, while you have produced a plan which can leave nothing but civil war behind it—it is for these reasons that very deliberately and very regretfully, but with the fullest conviction of the truth of the opinions which have been expressed on this side of the House, that I record my vote against this Bill.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX: My Lords, at this late hour of the evening I shall not detain you for more than two minutes. There are many things I wish to say on this important question, but I shall postpone them for another occasion. There is, however, one thing which I must say, and it is this. The noble Earl who has just sat down, whenever he speaks delights us with his wit and his eloquence, but I venture to think that the speech he has just made neither advances the solution of the very grave and serious question before the House, nor was it quite worthy of the subject. The noble Earl is fond of scriptural quotations. I will answer him with one. There has not been a speech made against this Bill which has not proved to demonstration that the question before your Lordships is whether undenominational teaching under the provisions of the Cowper-Temple Clause is, like the lean kine in Joseph's dream, to devour the definite religious system of the denominational bodies. That is the question. Those who have spoken against this Bill will, perhaps, have some respect for the opinion of Mr. Gladstone. How did Mr. Gladstone characterise undenominational education? He said it was a moral monster professing to give what it could not give, and obtaining a position under false pretences. I say that undenominational religion under the provisions of the Conscience Clause is either a denial of Christianity or a sham; and I will prove that when we are in Committee. The question is, are the children of the masses to be brought up as Christians or not? Hand them over to teachers who may believe anything or nothing, and you have cut at the root of all religious education. You say you do not wish to have a definite and distinct religion taught in the schools. Indefinite, undogmatic religion is a sham, and the cause of Christian morality cannot be separated from Christian doctrine. It was not a hazy, indefinite, undogmatic Christianity that created modern civilization; it was definite, distinct Christianity—Christianity founded on the doctrine of the Incarnation, on the belief in the triumphant resurrection of the Eternal Son of God; and it is those two things the most distinguished representatives of the undenominational system in this country wish not to be taught to the children in the board schools. This is not what I consider a perfect Bill, but if I had ever had any intention of voting against it, the speeches delivered on the Opposition side of the House would have made me vote for it with all my heart.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, before I attempt to make any reply to the speech which has just been delivered by the noble Earl who sits below the Gangway, I will give some answer to one or two questions which have been put to His Majesty's Government in the course of this debate. Several speakers, and among them the noble Earl himself, asked questions on the subject of the provisions of the Bill which relate to secondary education, and some complaints have been made—complaints not altogether confined to one side of the House—as to the insufficiency of those provisions. Regret has also been expressed that more mandatory instructions are not proposed to be given to the county authorities, imposing on them more strongly the duty of making adequate provision for secondary education. I think noble Lords who have dwelt on that point, rather under-rate the difficulty of laying down any precise instructions by which it would be possible to guide the action of local authorities in the matter. The existing facilities for secondary education, as well as the need for secondary education, vary greatly in different parts of the country, and I think if any noble Lord would try his hand at it, he would find it an extremely difficult task to embody in any Clause of the Bill the instructions which he would consider it necessary to give to the authority. Perhaps with regard to this point I may be allowed to read a paragraph from the Report of the Secondary Education Commission, which was, I think, appointed by the noble Earl. I do not quote this Report as being completely in accordance with the provisions of this Bill. Your Lordships will see that it goes somewhat further than we do.

> "We conceive" (the Commission state) "experience to have conclusively shown that private enterprise cannot entirely be relied on, and that the duty of seeing that an adequate supply of secondary education is provided must be thrown on a public authority. In our opinion this duty ought to be imposed by statute on each local educational authority, and the Central Office should be empowered to see that the duty is properly fulfilled."

Well, my Lords, our Bill certainly contains no provision which will enable the Central Office to compel the local authorities to take action in this matter. The Report continues—

> "To define this obligation, and to say what is to be deemed an adequate supply, is a more difficult task. . . . It is, in our judgment, safe to leave the working out of the general principle above enunciated to the action of an enlightened public opinion, working both within and from without upon the local authorities, and re-inforced in extreme cases by the action of the central executive. We believe that the occasions for this re-inforcement are likely to be few; and the executive, when it has occasion to use its ultimate right of insisting on the fulfilment of the statute, will be well advised in using (as we believe it will) this right very cautiously, with a large regard to the differences between one locality and another and a perception of the truth"—

and these are really the words to which I particularly wish to direct your Lordships' attention—

> "that more can generally be effected by leading local authorities than by attempting to drive them."

I quite admit that that recommendation goes a little further in some respects than we have now gone; but I think we have acted, and have been wise in acting, entirely in the spirit of the concluding words of the recommendation. The moderate tone in which the recommendation is couched is all the more remarkable when we recollect that by what seems to have been an extraordinary and not altogether a wise course of action this Commission was composed almost entirely of gentlemen and ladies who were specially and mainly interested in the question of education, and that, with the exception of my right hon. friend Sir John Hibbert, and my hon. friend Mr. Henry Hobhouse, and, I think, one other Member, there were not on the Commission any persons who had had any general experience of either official or local government questions. The Report was therefore almost entirely drawn up by persons actuated, as they would themselves have acknowledged, mainly by their interest in educational questions. I think it is very remarkable that, looking at the composition of that Commission, their recommendation should have been of so moderate a character.

The noble Earl expressed some regret that we had repealed the Technical Instruction Act, and that we had omitted to re-enact some parts of the provision which he considered to be of importance. He first referred to the provision as to religious instruction contained in that Act. They have been re-enacted in the fourth Clause with some modification, and I think that if any one is of opinion that these modifications are in a disadvantageous direction that question may very well be left over for discussion at the Committee stage of the Bill, but the Clauses relating to religious instruction specially remain as they were under the Technical Instruction Act. The noble Lord asks what has become of the Clause which provided for the representation of the local authority on the governing body of assisted institutions. It is quite true that this Bill removes this obligation, but it is perfectly competent for a council, whenever it thinks fit to give aid to any educational institution, to attach such condition as to representation as is considered necessary. In our opinion this will work far better than the rigid rule which was laid down in the Act of 1889, which, in practice, has been found in its extreme rigidity to be inconvenient in its working. I regretted somewhat to hear last night from the most rev. Prelate, whose speech we all listened to with so much sympathy, some expression of feeling on his part that the treatment of

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the Church in this Bill had not erred on the side of generosity. I understood the most rev. Prelate to say that he thought it was a poor requital for the educational services rendered by the Church that they should still be made liable for the structural repairs of the voluntary school. I admit that there is a minor question as to the liability for what are called tenant's repairs in contradistinction to those which are called landlord's repairs. That, I think, is not a very large question; but I must remind the most rev. Prelate and the Episcopal Bench that one of the distinct conditions which, on the part of the clergy, the Joint Committee of Convocation put forward and were willing to accept on behalf of the Church, was that they were prepared to offer the authority the use of the school and to undertake the necessary repairs in addition. Therefore, I think it is rather hard that we should now be taunted with want of liberality in having accepted an offer which was freely, and, as far as I know, unconditionally made on their part.

My noble friend Lord Goschen, in the extremely interesting and animated speech which he made last night, expressed some anxiety on the score of the local inspection to which schools would become subject. I do not think that my noble friend need entertain any great anxiety on that score. I think he must have forgotten that the London School Board, and, I believe, the School Boards in other great towns, already have inspectors of their own. So far as I know, no complaint has ever arisen of any friction or inconvenience caused to the school by the action of those inspectors as well as of the inspectors under the Board of Education. It appears to me that these are perfectly distinct functions which may be very usefully discharged by these two sets of inspectors. The inspector of the Board of Education can only inspect as to the general efficiency of the schools; it is not his duty to report on, or to give directions as to the suitability of the school to the district. That, I take it, will be more directly and immediately the province of the local authority's inspector in the cases where they think it necessary to appoint one and use their powers of inspection. It may well be that a school which is perfectly efficient may be found to be, in the opinion of the local authority, of a type not suited to the particular needs of that locality, and the information which would be given to the local authority by its inspector on such a point as that could not, I think, fail to be of value both to the authority and to the managers of the school.

The noble Earl who has just sat down said that we had carefully avoided approaching the subject of what is known as the Kenyon-Slaney Clause. I did not think that it was incumbent on any Member of the Government to approach that subject, because I believe until tonight it has not been mentioned by any speaker in this House.

EARL SPENCER: I mentioned it last night.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I regret to say I do not recollect what the noble Earl said about it. I did not catch his observation. All I can say on that subject is, that the interpretation which is placed upon the Clause by the Government and by the legal advisers of the Government, has been fully stated in the other House. If, when we go into committee, that interpretation is questioned, if it is not accepted as being the true meaning of the Clause, it may become necessary, as was indicated by the Attorney General in another place, to consider some Amendments which may make its meaning perfectly clear. Now, my Lords, I come to the attack which has been made by the noble Earl, as well as by others, upon the elementary provisions under the Bill. I think the criticism has almost entirely turned on two points, mainly—the absence of proper control, and what may be called religious tests. It is extremely difficult to separate the question of popular representation on the management of schools from that of the character of the religious instruction to be given in these schools. But they are distinct points, and I shall endeavour to keep them as far as I can separate. The noble Earl in the speeches which he has made elsewhere, and to a great degree in the speech which he has just delivered, has put it on what I may call the arithmetical argument, but I think I can show that that argument is entirely fallacious. I am not sure whether to-night he repeated his rule-of-three sum, but I think in his speech at

Edinburgh he adopted from Mr. Asquith the allegation that the Government's rule of arithmetic appeared to be that as eleven was to one, which was the proportion of the Government to voluntary contributions, so was two to four, which was the proportion of representation between the local authority and the denominational managers. Well, my Lords, I say it is not difficult to show that this arithmetical argument is entirely fallacious. On what ground is it contended that the local authority representing the ratepayers are to have a large majority, or a majority at all, upon the management of these schools? Noble Lords do not seem to consider what are the sources from which the maintenance of schools is derived. It is derived from three sources, first from the voluntary subscribers who have provided the schools and who will still have the charge of the necessary repairs. That, I admit, is not a very large, although it will not be an altogether insignificant, portion of the cost of the maintenance of the schools. Next comes the contribution of the State, which is by far the largest part, and, lastly, comes the contribution which is hereafter to be made by the ratepayers. As I said, I think, in my speech yesterday, it is very difficult, in fact it is impossible, to make any accurate calculation of what these relative proportions will be, but I think it may certainly be said that on an average the contributions given by the State from the taxes will amount to something like two-thirds, and the amount contributed by the ratepayers about one-third. What possible claim can there be that the ratepayers should have the complete, or even a preponderating share in the management of these schools? If anyone has a right to be represented on the management of the schools in a majority it is not the ratepayers but the taxpayers.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I never asserted it on behalf of the ratepayers. I asserted it on behalf of the public.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That is exactly what I say.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: What representation has the public?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That is just what I am going to tell the noble Earl. If we are to constitute these boards of management in proportion to the contributions there will be a certain number appointed by the ratepayers, a certain number appointed by the voluntary subscribers, and a certain number appointed by the State, but as it is manifestly impossible that the Board of Education can send representatives to act as managers of every school to the support of which it so liberally contributes, the State must be content with the control which it exercises, which is and will continue to be a very real control, in the inspection it conducts of these schools and in the action which it can take if it thinks necessary on the report of its inspector. I deny altogether that any majority appointed by the ratepayers will adequately represent the interests of the State, of the taxpayer who contributes the greater part of the cost of the maintenance of these schools. It seems to me to follow from this that if the State has a right to a controlling voice in the management of the schools which it does most to support, it also should have a controlling voice in deciding what is to be the character of the instruction given in those schools. If the State is of opinion, as it is at present, as represented by His Majesty's advisers, that in that instruction definite religious teachings should not be excluded, then it appears to me to be incumbent upon those who represent the State in this matter, that they should take precautions to prevent the management of the school being so constituted as to defeat that intention on their part. I have said that it is very difficult to separate the question of popular local representation from the religious question, and I believe it is really impossible, because if we are of opinion that definite religious teaching is not to be excluded from State-supported schools, it is, in my opinion, impossible to see how that object can be accomplished if you are going to give a preponderating representation, which may be—it will not be in all cases but it may be in some—entirely subversive of any such intention. How, if you insist upon a popularly-appointed majority on the Board of Management of every school, are you to secure that the teaching in those schools shall retain a distinctive religious character? The Board of Managers may decide, for example, that the Catechism shall not be taught, and they may abuse their power of appointing the teacher by the appointment, not only of a Nonconformist but even, if they think fit, of a Roman Catholic teacher in a Church school. I ask, how are we to secure the maintenance of the definite religious teaching for which a school has been founded unless some security is provided in some form or another that the teacher shall be of the faith which the school was founded to further?

The noble Earl said that it was monstrous that in schools which were wholly supported by the State it would be impossible for Nonconformists to become head teachers. It is equally monstrous that it should be possible for a secularist to become head teacher. But if it were possible for Nonconformists to be head teachers, what security is provided for maintaining the definite religious character of the school? If this is your view, you have nothing to do but to propose a provision which shall exclude religious teaching from the schools altogether, or, if you prefer an undenominational system, you have simply to enact that the Cowper-Temple Clause should be applied in future to every school which receives State assistance. But, as I endeavoured to point out in my speech yesterday in moving the Second Reading, noble Lords opposite have never committed themselves to either of those propositions, and I believe many of them to be as opposed as any of us to the establishment of a purely secular system in our schools. I have endeavoured, in vain, to extract from noble Lords opposite, whether they are prepared to say that the teaching in these schools shall, in future, be purely undenominational or not. They have shrunk from any definite declaration on that subject, and it only remains to be seen whether, in Committee, they are prepared to move—and this is a simple way of clearing up the matter—a definite Clause, enacting the Cowper-Temple Clause in every State-assisted school. The noble Earl, at the close of his speech, expressed great admiration for the Scottish system, and indicated that that system might, with advantage, be adopted in this country. He also expressed his approval of the system, which he briefly described, prevailing in some of our Colonies. But I ask the noble Earl whether either the Scottish system or the system which obtains in the Colonies, can be adopted here consistently with the retention of the Cowper-Temple Clause? I ask the noble Earl whether he is prepared, whether his friends are prepared, or whether the Nonconformists of the country are prepared, to give up the Cowper-Temple Clause as it now exists in every provided school? If they are not so prepared, it is impossible to adopt either of the alternatives which the noble Earl has suggested. Believing as I do that, much as the Nonconformists dislike and distrust the provisions of this Bill, they would still more dislike and distrust any proposal to abrogate that Clause which they consider to be the great protection of their rights, I hold that we should have been very badly advised if we had substituted for our proposals any of the proposals suggested by the noble Earl. Many anticipations have been expressed in the course of this debate as to the probable working of the Bill. Many noble Lords have indulged in something approaching prophecy. I wish it were possible for any of us to feel sure what would be the working of a measure so complex and so full of difficult controversial questions, as any measure on this subject must necessarily be. But if I had to express my opinion of how the Bill is likely to work, I could, with the greatest confidence, say that I share the views expressed by the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Winchester, who addressed your lordships tonight with much ability, and most confidently expect that the great portion of the passions and excitement aroused by the Measure will subside at its passing, rather than the views of the noble Earl opposite, who, in language of at least some exaggeration, expressed the opinion that the Measure was going to lead to a civil war.

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Camperdown, E.
Cawdor, E.
Dartmouth, E.
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Egerton, E.
Eldon, E.
Feversham, E.
Howe, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Lindsey, E.
Londesborough, E.
Lucan, E.
Lytton, E.
Manvers, E.
Morley, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Nelson, E.
Northbrook, E.
Onslow, E.
Romney, E.
Saint Germans, E.
Selborne, E.
Shaftesbury, E.
Stanhope, E.
Tankerville, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Verulam, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Wharncliffe, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Colville of Culross, V.
Falkland, V.
Falmouth, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Knutsford, V.
Llandaff, V.
Peel, V.

Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Carlisle, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Ely, L. Bp.
Lichfield, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Manchester, L. Bp.
Newcastle, L. Bp.
Rochester, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
Southwell, L. Bp.
Truro, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Addington, L.
Allerton, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Ashcombe, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.
Barrymore, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Braybrooke, L.
Bray, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Carew, L.
Castlemaine, L.
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Chelmsford, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Colchester, L.
Congleton, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Mauley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Ellenborough, L.
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Forester, L.
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Glanusk, L.
Glenesk, L.
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*)
Harris, L.
Herries, L.
Hillingdon, L.
Hothfield, L.
James, L.
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Lindley, L.
Ludlow, L.
Macnaghten L.
Manners, L.
Middleton, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu L.
Mount Stephen, L.
Muncaster, L.
Newton, L.
North, L.
Northbourne, L.
O'Brien, L.
Rathmore, L.
Redesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Rowton, L.
Saltoun, L.
Seaton, L.
Shand, L.
Sherborne, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Stanmore, L
Stratheden and Campbell, L.
Tenterden, L.
Teynham, L.
Torphichen, L.
Tweeddale L. (*M. Tweeddale.*)
Windsor, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Northampton, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E. [*Teller.*]
Crewe, E.
Durham, E.
Kimberley, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Rosslyn, E.
Russell, E.
Spencer, E.
Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)
Hampden, V.

Hereford, L. Bp.

Aberdare, L.
Botreaux, L. (*E. Loudoun*)
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Coleridge, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L.
Elgin, L. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)
Farrer, L.
Headley, L.
Heneage, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Monkswell, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde*)
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.

Bill read 2^{a}, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

House adjourned at half-past Twelve o'clock a.m., to Monday next a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 5th December, 1902.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Fraserburgh, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS (SUPERANNUATION) RULES (JERSEY).

Return (presented 4th December); to be printed. (No. 388.)

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 374 (Leeward Islands, Report for 1901–2) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that in his Memorandum, dated August, 1881 (printed in Paper 229 of 1881, Sugar Bounties), Mr. T. H. Farrer, then Secretary to the Board of Trade, stated that it had been decided by the highest legal authority that to impose a countervailing duty in order to neutralise a foreign bounty on sugar would be contrary to the most-favoured-nation Clause in existing commercial treaties; whether the legal authority thus referred to was that of the Law Officers of the Crown; whether the opinion of the present Law Officers of the Crown has been or will be taken on the point as it now arises upon the Brussels Sugar Convention and its effect upon the Treaty of Commerce with Russia of 1859; and, if such opinion has already been taken, can he state generally the effect thereof?

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) It is quite true that, in 1881, the then Secretary to the Board of Trade made the statement attributed to him in the Question. We have no record of any opinion by the Law Officers given at that time upon the subject. The answer to the third Question is in the affirmative; but it is contrary to practice to quote the confidential advice given to the Government by their legal advisers.

Hyderabad Administration.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether an understanding has been arrived at between the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Viceroy of India with reference to the finances of Hyderabad; and whether he is in a position to make a statement as to the reforms which, in the opinion of the Government of India, are required in the administration of that Indian State.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I have no knowledge of any understanding between the Government of India and the Nizam as to the finances of the Hyderabad State, but an agreement has been arrived at as to the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, Papers relating to which I hope soon to be able to lay upon the Table.

Coronation—Pay of Indian Volunteer Contingent.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has made inquiries and is now in a position to say whether Government servants who took privilege leave in order to join the Indian Volunteer Contingent which came home for the Coronation, have been informed that they will not receive any pay for the extra period of their detention at home in consequence of the King's illness; and, if so, on what ground this decision has been arrived at.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) An inquiry has been addressed to the Government of India respecting this matter, and I expect to receive their reply very shortly.

Waziri Expedition.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state what was the original cause of the expedition against the Waziris, and what are the conditions to be imposed with a view of preventing such outbreaks in future; whether he can give the approximate number of troops engaged in the expedition; and whether these hostilities will necessitate any permanent addition to the military expenditure of the Government of India.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The cause of the expedition is that serious attacks, three of which have occurred in the last six months, have been made on militia and police posts along this section of the border. The conditions to be imposed on the tribes are: Prohibition of towers which they use for offence and defence, fines, expulsion of outlaws, and the construction of a road through the territory concerned. The force employed aggregates about 2,900 men and 10 mountain guns. The operations will not involve any permanent addition to military expenditure.

Island of Lewis—Fever Outbreak at Tolsta.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state whether any steps have been taken to ascertain the cause of the epidemic of typhus and typhoid fever at Tolsta, Island of Lewis.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The Local Government Board inform me that, in the opinion of the local medical officer, the disease was imported by the Militia Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders from Egypt.

Island of Lewis—Sanitation.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate whether arrangements can be made for Mr. Millar, the Local Government Board's Inspecting Officer under the Public Health Act, to visit the townships in the parishes of Stornoway, Barvas, Lochs, and Uig, Island of Lewis, for the purpose of reporting as to steps to be taken to improve their sanitary condition.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) Mr. Millar cannot be spared for such a purpose without detriment to his ordinary duties, but if the local authority want expert advice beyond that of their own officers, any representation to that effect from them will receive due consideration.

Post Office—Promotion of Officials Over Sixty Years of Age.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster General if an officer of his Department who has attained sixty years of age, but who has not completed forty years service, is eligible for promotion to a higher class, provided that he is certified by his superiors as qualified to fill the position.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) There is nothing to prevent the Postmaster General from promoting such an officer if he thinks it desirable to do so.

Post Office—Special Leave Regulations.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster General whether he can state when he will give a reply to the deputation of Members of Parliament who waited on his predecessor in the summer on the question of the new special leave regulations.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have been carefully considering the representations made by certain Members of Parliament to my predecessor, as well as a memorial addressed to him by some members of the postal staff, and I hope to give my decision before Parliament separates.

Postal Circulation of Betting and Lottery Circulars.

Colonel WELBY (Taunton): To ask the Postmaster General whether inland letters containing betting and lottery circulars are received by post offices for prepayment in money; if so, whether he will forbid their being received to prevent people believing that the prepaid stamp gives those circulars official recognition.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I do not think it is desirable to institute inquiries into the contents of closed letters presented at post offices for prepayment in money. Nor would any precaution of this kind be effectual in preventing illegal documents being sent by post. I do not understand how the prepaid stamp can be thought to give any official recognition to the contents of the letters.

South Africa—Land Settlement Scheme for the New Colonies.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he can lay upon the Table any Papers giving a description of Lord Milner's new scheme of land settlement for the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) The greater part of the information available on this subject has been published in the Blue-book [Cd. 1163], and Lord Milner's plans have not sufficiently matured since the date of that publication to render it desirable to lay further Papers.

Naval Dockyard Workmen Selected for Cape Service and not Sent.

MR. LOCKIE (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that certain shipwrights and machinemen in His Majesty's service were lately selected for service at Cape Town; that after they had purchased their outfits their appointments were countermanded; and whether, under these circumstances, they will be compensated for the expense to which they have been put.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Twenty-one workmen in the Home dockyards were recently selected for service at the Cape of Good Hope naval yard, but as the result of further communications with the Commander-in-Chief on the Cape Station the numbers to be sent out were reduced to eleven. The Admiralty have no information to the effect that the other ten men had already purchased their outfits. If it be the case that they have been put to expense in this way, the proper course is for them to represent the facts through their superior officers, in order that each case may be considered on its merits.

Education Bill—Rating of Parishes Maintaining Private Schools.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the ratepayers of a parish who, asking no aid from Government Grant, maintain at their own expense a certified efficient school in their parish, will be called upon to contribute to the full extent to the general education rate, or only to such extent as that rate is in excess of that required to meet expenditure on the public elementary schools.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The ratepayers of such a parish will not be exempted from any part of the general education rate.

Belfast Re-Valuation.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now furnish a Return setting forth the names, qualifications, and salaries of the revising officers engaged in the re-valuation of Belfast

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Return is in preparation, and will be forwarded to the hon. Member next week.

Ranking of Volunteer Officers who served in South Africa.

SIR JOHN LENG: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that in a War Office circular letter to general officers commanding volunteers, dated 15th May last, it was stated that the names of Volunteer officers upon whom honorary army rank had been conferred for their services in South Africa, and who subsequently resigned, would be shown as officers with honorary rank in the alphabetical list of officers retired from the Army in the Quarterly Army List, he will explain why, in the Quarterly Army List for October, no names of Volunteer service company officers are shown in the list of retired officers, although many had resigned before it was published; and whether he will take steps to have this omission rectified in future quarterly lists.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The hon. Member has been misinformed. The officers concerned are shown in the Quarterly Army List on pages 2072–2074 (*b*), to which the circular specially refers.

ADJOURNMENT—RIGHT TO RAISE URGENT QUESTIONS ON MOTION FOR WEEK-END ADJOURNMENT.

Point of Practice—

(12.10.) Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House, at the rising of the House this day, do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I desire on this Motion to raise an urgent and important question. This Motion, I may point out, is only necessary because of the exceptional circumstances under which we are met. When Committee of Supply and of Ways and Means is open, the House under Standing Order 18 adjourns automatically from Friday to Monday, but it not being now open, Standing Order 18 does not apply, and we come back under the old Rule which enables Members to call attention on the Motion for adjournment to any matters they deem of importance or urgency. I am not, however, going to detain the House at any length. The matter to which I wish to call attention——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I am not aware of any Rule under which the Motion for adjournment from Friday to Monday may be made the subject of discussion. It is not like a Motion for adjournment over Easter or Whitsuntide, or any unusual period. But this is quite an ordinary proceeding.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I should like to point out, Sir, that Sir Erskine May, in his own last edition, dealing with the Standing Order of 1861, says—

> "Considerable laxity has prevailed in allowing irrelevant speeches upon questions of adjournment, which are regarded as exceptions to the general rule. In 1849 the Speaker endeavoured to enforce a stricter practice, and called upon Members to confine their observations upon such Motion to the question properly before the House—viz., whether the House should adjourn or not. But the House has not since acquiesced in any limitation of the supposed privilege of Members to speak upon every subject but that of the colourable question of adjournment. In moving an adjournment, however, during a debate upon any Question, a Member must confine his remarks to that Question. Until the discontinuance of the weekly question of adjournment from Friday till Monday, in 1861, an inconvenient latitude of discussion was also permitted. Nor did the House deprive Members of this opportunity of raising general debates, without an equivalent; but required the Committee of Supply to be the first Order of the Day on Friday, when there is the like freedom of discussion."

Will you allow me to say that, in addition to the Standing Order which I have read, there was Standing Order 11, now repealed, which was as follows:—

> "That, while the Committees of Supply, and Ways and Means are open, the first Order of the Day on Friday shall be either Supply, or Ways and Means, and that on that Order being read, the Question shall be proposed, 'That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.'"

I submit as a point of order that while during continuance of the Committee of Supply or Ways and Means, the House is, under Standing Order 18, automatically adjourned from Friday to Monday, yet, when, as now, Committee of Supply is not open, we are still under the old Orders of the House and under the old practice, which there is nothing to impair or affect. That being so, I submit that I am within my rights in calling attention to a matter of importance on this Motion.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): On the point of Order, may I suggest that the power of raising debate on the Motion is similar to that of calling attention to questions on the Motion for adjournment at the conclusion of the day's sitting? We often do that.

*MR. SPEAKER: My impression was that this was an obsolete practice. But I am very anxious not to interpose where any doubt can exist with regard to any opportunity of debate which may belong to the House, and therefore I will call on the hon. Member.

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I think the House will agree that this which I am about shortly to raise is an extremely important subject, and precisely one of those matters which show the extreme value of the privilege that has fortunately been retained by the House. I sent word this morning to the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs of my intention to raise a question on this Motion at noon, and I had hoped that he would be in his place to hear what I had to say, because it mainly concerns his Department. This is my point. Ten days ago the House approved of the policy of the Sugar Convention, and practically gave power to the Government to ratify the Convention. Since then new facts of the most alarming and unexpected nature have been revealed, as is indeed avowed by

His Majesty's Government. These facts, I submit, ought to cause the Government to reconsider their position; and it behoves them to dispose finally of all the grave doubts that have undoubtedly arisen in regard to the Convention, before ratifying it. It is admitted, first of all, that the translation is incorrect. The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs has had to admit to the House, for the first time in the history of the Foreign Office, that a wrong translation has been issued. I submit that this alone should cause the Government to pause before they ratify the Convention. Now, the binding text of the Convention is in French, and, therefore, whether the translation is good or bad, we are bound by that text. The noble Lord has had to admit that in a most important Article of the Convention—the Article which concerns its duration, and the method of putting an end to it—the translation is incorrect. It is to be regretted that there does not seem to be any one at the Foreign Office who knows either French or English; for I could show that in many other respects the translation is incorrect. I have reason to believe, however, that mistranslation is not so much the fault of the Foreign Office as it is the fault of the Treasury, which refuses to supply experts for these translations. But the effect is that the House has decided the question on a false translation and an incorrect statement of the facts before it. But there are two other points far more important even than that. Doubts have arisen since the debate as to the effect of the Sugar Convention on other treaties containing the most-favoured-nation Clause. The noble Lord told me the day before yesterday with regard to Russia that the affair had been settled in 1899, that the question was raised by Russia, and that we had then taken up the position that in our view such a Convention as this was not affected by, and did not affect, the most-favoured-nation Clause. He also said that Russia had made no reply to our representation, and it followed, consequently, that we retained our opinion and Russia hers. But yesterday the noble Lord told the House an entirely different story. He said, in reply to the hon. Member for Mid Armagh, that Russia had protested that this Sugar Convention was a violation of the treaty of 1859 with her. When did she protest? She had not done so on Tuesday, because the noble Lord did not mention it in reply to my Question.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (LORD CRANBORNE, Rochester): I never denied it.

*Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: Really, that is too bad.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): But you suppressed it.

LORD CRANBORNE: I was never asked the question.

*Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: I am not anxious to detain the House, but if the noble Lord persists in his denial I must quote his words. I asked the noble Lord—

> "Whether, in view of Article II. of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Russia, of 12th January, 1859, which binds this country not to place other or higher duties on any articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of Russian dominions than on those of any other foreign country, and not to prohibit the importation of any such articles, and of Article X., which binds this country to grant to Russian subjects every privilege, favour, and immunity granted to subjects of any other Power, it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to give notice of the expiration of that treaty in order to place itself in a position to carry out the Sugar Convention, Brussels; and whether, in view of Article XXII. of the Treaty of 1859, which stipulates that the treaty shall remain in force until 12 months after either party thereto shall have given notice to the other to terminate the same, such notice has already been given by His Majesty's Government; and, if not, how His Majesty's Government propose to place themselves in a position to give effect to the Sugar Convention as therein stipulated on 1st September, 1903."

In reply the noble Lord said:—

> "The Russian Government were informed in 1899, when the Government of India had imposed countervailing duties against sugar imported from Russia, that this was the opinion of Her Majesty's Government and that if the Russian Government were unable to agree in this view Her Majesty's Government were prepared to denounce the Treaty of Commerce of 1859. No reply was made to this communication."

I am sure the noble Lord intended to be candid, but was it a full statement in reply not to state the fact that though there was no reply to the communication of 1899 there nevertheless had been the statement quite recently on the part of Russia that this Convention was an infringement of the most-favoured-nation

Clause in the very treaty of 1859 to which he had been referring? It was not until yesterday that this information was given to the hon. Member for Mid-Armagh. It is, therefore, a new fact which has transpired since the debate on this Sugar Convention, that Russia not only declares that the Convention is an infringement of her treaty, but it is so important that she actually proposes that we should go to arbitration upon it.

But it is not a case merely of Russia; there are other nations, not parties to the Convention, with whom we have a most-favoured-nation Clause. If it is true of Russia it is also true of all these other treaties as well; and it is clear, therefore, that most serious doubts hang over the effect of the treaty in this respect. On referring to the *procès-verbaux*, I find that even before signing the Convention the Government were aware that doubt hung over the question. On January 23, 1902, Mr. Phipps, the delegate for Great Britain, declared that the British delegates could not definitively adhere to Article IV., which imposes the obligation of countervailing duties without an understanding being established as to its application to this most-favoured-nation Clause. But, notwithstanding that declaration, when the delegates came to Art. IV., although they raised other questions upon it, they did not raise this question again; they signed the Convention on 5th March without any such understanding being arrived at, and recorded in the *procès-verbaux*. That is not all. To the two points of serious doubt and question already mentioned, I have to add a third, even more serious. The Finance Minister of Holland declared two days ago that in his view—and, if I may say so, it is my own opinion also—the Convention does oblige Great Britain to put countervailing duties, not only on sugars, but on all sugar products, such as biscuits containing sugar; it does oblige great Britain to put a countervailing duty on these products when coming from any one of our self-governing Colonies—I am not speaking of our Crown Colonies—which gives in any way a bounty on the manufacture or export of sugar or sugared products. Yesterday the noble Lord admitted to me in answer to a Question that it is not Holland alone that takes that view, but that it is also held in other quarters. Other Powers have declared the same thing, according to the avowal of the noble Lord. We, however, flatly deny this and take the contrary view, and he admits that a correspondence on this disagreement is proceeding; but he does not say with what Powers. I ask, therefore, with whom is the correspondence going on, and with how many Powers? I am quite certain from what is in the *procès-verbaux* that Belgium, and I think probably Germany also, holds the same view. But since this is the case, are we to proceed with the ratification of a Convention of this kind, on which there is so much disagreement and which is so vital to us and to our Colonies? It would be absurd to do so; no man fit to be out of Bedlam would ratify such an agreement if he were told before doing so that the other signatories were in entire disagreement with him. It is quite clear that there is a complete disagreement as to the meaning of a most important article between some of the signatories to the Convention. Will the noble Lord lay the correspondence on the Table of the House? Will the Government undertake to arrive at an agreement before it ratifies the Convention? Will it find out whether there is an obligation to impose countervailing duties upon sugar coming from our Colonies? Queensland gives a bounty; Ontario also gives a bounty by lending capital for the building of refineries at five per cent. interest. It may be said that that is only a temporary arrangement, but still it may be renewed. Any Colony may give a bounty in the future, and this Convention is made for the future. These facts must be borne in mind. Ten days ago the House was induced to pass a Resolution approving the Convention, and to pass it after a debate which was almost entirely monopolised by the Government and those of its supporters who are capable of making long speeches, and which debate was then ruthlessly closured without hearing many who had claims to speak to it. But in view of the new facts, the doubts and disagreement that have since transpired—it would, be monstrous to ignore the gravity of the position or to proceed to ratify a Convention as to the effect of which both signatory and non-signatory Powers wholly disagree with us. I therefore ask the Government to give an undertaking that before the

Convention is ratified on the 1st February next they will resolve all the doubts which have arisen concerning it, and that until agreement is reached on them they will abstain from ratification. Unless I get an assurance to that effect, I shall feel I ought to vote against this Motion.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I consider that the course taken by the hon. Gentleman is one not only absolutely without precedent, but one most improper to be taken on such an occasion. Let me remind the House what precisely is the opportunity which the hon. Gentleman has selected for raising these delicate international questions. The House is perhaps aware that among the obsolete survivals in the Rules, which in face of the opposition of the hon. Gentleman I have been attempting to amend, there is one which lays down that when Supply is set up the House shall adjourn from Friday till Monday without Question put. That means that for the greater part of every session the adjournment till Monday is automatic, but during the debate on the King's Speech and in an Autumn Session when Supply is not set up, the Motion comes on; but in the whole of my Parliamentary experience it has invariably been treated as an absolutely formal Motion. The hon. Gentleman did not even give notice.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I could not give notice, because some of the facts to which I have referred did not transpire till last night.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not discussing objections to the course which the hon. Gentleman has taken, although I think that is open to the gravest animadversion. I think he might have sent notice to my noble friend the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs or to the President of the Board of Trade.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES: That is exactly what I did. I sent notice to the noble Lord this morning as soon as I was able to do so.

LORD CRANBORNE: At what time?

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES: This morning.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: But that is not the gravamen of my complaint against the hon. Gentleman. The complaint I make is that he has chosen to use this survival in our Standing Orders to raise a subject of debate, absolutely, as far as I know, without precedent.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): We often make precedents.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Precedents should not be made in this way. Nothing can be worse than that it should be in the power of any hon. Member to interrupt the ordinary business of this House by raising, on a purely formal Motion, a Motion which has been regarded as formal for at least a generation, a debate on any subject, however important, however difficult, and however delicate.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): The right hon. Gentleman forgets that we have this privilege every night on the Motion to adjourn.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is no analogy between the two cases. I certainly should suggest to my hon. friends, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the President of the Board of Trade, that they should not lend themselves to this most unfortunate proceeding by taking any part in the debate which the hon. Gentleman has initiated.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): If the admonition or expostulation of the First Lord is addressed to anybody, I am afraid it is to Mr. Speaker, because he has ruled that this is a perfectly proper opportunity for the hon. Member to seek the information he desires to have. I agree with my hon. friend the Member for Mid Lanark that this is absolutely analogous to the daily Motion that this House do now adjourn. It would, of course, be absurd if on frequent occasions that Motion were used, but it is sometimes used for the purpose of extracting information from the Government. The Sugar Convention is a most urgent matter, and one of very great importance to this country, not only within the narrow limits of the immediate matters with which it deals, but in its effect on the general policy and international position of this country. There has been only one night's discussion on the Sugar Convention, which was terminated by the Closure, and since then—to show that there was no great pressure—there has been an Evening Sitting when the Government had nothing to do, and did not occupy the time at all. I said at the time that one night was not sufficient for debating this great subject, and since then many new points have been exposed by the assiduity of the hon. Member for King's Lynn—points which throw fresh light on the matter. Here is a case where the Government is rattling through business in order to wind up this unusual and protracted session, but this great question of the ratification of the Convention is before us, and we have got to know whether the House of Commons has really given a substantial and final approval to that instrument in the light of all the facts that have come up. The hon. Member takes the opportunity of bringing certain new facts before the House; it is not a *chose jugee*, because we are in a position to take any line we choose upon it, and I am not at all surprised, seeing the gravity of the interests involved, that the hon. Member should have taken this opportunity, which the forms of the House permit, to call attention to the matter. The right hon. Gentleman need not be afraid because it is open to his colleagues to say that they have not had sufficient warning. They can promise a reply later on to the question put by the hon. Member. The hon. Gentleman was entitled to raise the question, and if there is substance in his points—that I cannot say, because I was not present when he raised them—but if there is substance in them he has done a public service in bringing them before the Government and the country.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I confess that I am unable to follow the Leader of the House in the censure he has passed on the hon. Member for King's Lynn. In my humble judgment my hon. friend deserves the thanks of the House and of the country. I say, with some knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, that I never heard such a doctrine laid down as that, on a Motion for Adjournment, it is not competent for a Member to raise a question if he thinks fit. It is notorious that in the debate on the Sugar Convention a large number of hon. Members who desired to take part were arbitrarily precluded by the Closure. Not only did the right hon. Gentleman closure the House, but he closured his colleagues.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question of the Closure cannot be discussed.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: I beg pardon. But the point apparently needs no further comment. I apologise, however, for having to that extent infringed the Rules of the House. I think, Sir, that I am entitled to complain that a great and important international question has been hurried through the House of Commons, and will, in the natural course of events, be settled finally, without the House having a reasonable opportunity of discussing it. I strongly feel that the few old forms of the House remaining ought not to be abandoned, and that my hon. friend was perfectly right in availing himself of the privilege which every Member possesses of drawing attention to the matter. As to the merits of the question itself I admit that I do not approach it from the same point of view as my hon. friend. I think there is one extremely objectionable feature of it, and that is that it ties the hands of this country behind its back, and prevents it from dealing as it thinks fit with its trading and commercial arrangements throughout the entire Empire.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! On this Motion for Adjournment the range of debate is limited, and the right hon. Gentleman will not be in order in rediscussing the question which was debated and decided by the House when it approved the Convention. The hon. Member for King's Lynn has called attention to certain matters which have occurred since that debate took place. He spoke of them as "new" and "urgent" matters. On that point I utter no opinion. But the right hon. Gentleman is treating now of matters which might have been discussed by him in the debate had he had an opportunity of speaking. He must confine himself to something new and not now attempt to re-discuss matters which were then debated and decided.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: It is not a question of my repeating my speech, since I had no opportunity of laying my views before the House when the debate took place. I must apologise for not having made it sufficiently clear that it was the fresh information which has oozed out, since the hurried debate the other night, that necessitated, in my judgment, my hon. friend calling attention to this subject. It was the revelation as to the alleged disagreement on an essential point among the high contracting parties to this Convention, information which has reached this House since it parted with the subject last week, which justified the action my hon. friend has taken, and I think we have a perfect right to protest against the doctrine which has been laid down by the Prime Minister. I am glad my hon. friend has raised this question, and, for so doing, I think he deserves the thanks of the House and of the country.

MR. THOMAS LOUGH: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give us another opportunity, before the session closes, of discussing this question—of course before the ratification of the Convention? If so, I am sure that the House will agree with me in thinking that this inconvenient Motion need not be persisted in any longer.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES: It is not my Motion; it is that of the Government.

MR. LOUGH: I wish to call attention to a new fact, which seems even graver than those referred to by the hon. Member. He has told us that in the Dutch Parliament the Finance Minister threatened us that we would be compelled to impose countervailing duties on sugar coming from our Colonies. But something else took place in the Dutch Parliament, for, immediately after that statement was made, the treaty was accepted and ratified by a unanimous vote. What is the meaning of that? The meaning is that we have not only to impose countervailing duties against our Colonies, but we are agreeing to give preferential treatment to foreign nations. Other countries see the advantage of this, although apparently our Government do not realise it. Continental nations realise the great advantage they are going to get from this convention. They see that the sugar tax provided under Clause 3 gives them preferential treatment in this country—it gives their manufacturers' products a preference. This is a matter of the greatest gravity to manufacturers in this country, who see that their great enterprises here are likely to be ruined. They come to me and to other Members. [Cries of "Order."] Well, I have been studying this subject for seven years, and I did not have an opportunity of saying a single word upon it in the debate. Nothing qualifies a man more to take part in a debate than the fact that he has devoted years of his life to the study of the particular question under discussion. I appeal to the Prime Minister if he will not reconsider the situation and give us some moderate opportunity, before the session closes, of calling attention to these new facts.

Question put, and agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill without Amendment.

LONDON WATER (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.

Clause 1:—

Amendment, as amended, proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'appointed, to insert the words 'as follows:—Ten by the London County Council; two by the Common Council of the city; two by the Council of the city of Westminster; one by the Council of each of the other metropolitan boroughs; one by the County Council of Essex; two by the Council of the Borough of West Ham; one by the Council of the Urban District of East Ham; one by the Council of the Urban District of Leyton; one by the Council of the Urban District of Walthamstow; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Buckhurst Hill, Chingford, Loughton, Waltham Holy Cross, Wanstead, and Woodford; one by the County Council of Kent; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst, and Penge; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Bexley, Dartford, Erith, and Foot's Cray; one by the County Council of Middlesex; one by the Council of the Urban District of Tottenham; one by the Council of the Urban District of Willesden; one by the Council of the Borough of Ealing and the Councils of the Urban Districts of Acton and Chiswick; one by the Councils of the Urban districts of Brentford, Hampton, Hampton Wick Hanwell, Heston and Isleworth, Sunbury, Teddington, and Twickenham; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Edmonton, Enfield, and Southgate; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Hornsey and Wood Green; one by the County Council of Surrey; one by the Council of the Borough of Kingston and the Councils of the Urban Districts of East and West Molesey, Esher and the Dittons, Ham and Surbiton; one by the Councils of the Urban Districts of Barnes, the Maldens and Coombe, and Wimbledon; one by the County Council of Hertfordshire; three by the Conservators of the River Thames; one by the Lee Conservancy Board.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

(12.40.) MR. LOUGH said that in moving the omission of line 11, he should explain that the effect would be to deprive Walthamstow of its separate representation. He had, however, a consequential Amendment which would add that urban district to the group of other Essex urban districts which was given one representative on the Board. Something must be done with regard to Essex before they passed away from that part of the Clause. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had already promised to re-consider the position in regard to the outside districts. Some reduction of the representation proposed to be given to them could not be resisted. The Committee on the previous day decided that London was only to have forty-one representatives on a Board of sixty-eight members. It had been stated that the representation was based on two grounds —population and ratable value. On the basis of population London would be entitled to 75 per cent. of the representation of the whole Board, or, in other words, to fifty-two of the seats. As a matter of fact, however, only forty-one of the seats had been so allotted. Then on the basis of ratable value, London would be entitled to fifty-six of the seats, so that, whichever of the tests laid down by the Government was relied upon, London had been given a number of seats far short of that to which it was entitled. Now the only way that remained to correct the disproportion in the representation of London was to reduce the representation of the outside areas. To these twenty-seven members were allotted, although on the basis of population, they were only entitled to eighteen, and on the basis of rateable value to fifteen. It was absolutely necessary therefore that some change should be made. It might be suggested that his proposal would make the urban districts somewhat unwieldy in size. But he would like to point out that in London the districts had populations ranging from 50,000 to 340,000, and they only had one representative each. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment, for Essex could well spare one of of its seven representatives.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"To leave out line 11."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said he thought the hon. Gentleman was trying to do wha he desired to do in a wrong way. As he understood him, his wish was that the number of members given to outside London should be reduced, and a proportionate number be added to the representation of inner London. Surely he could secure that end by some better plan than that proposed in this Amendment. It appeared to him that if this proposal were carried it would only make matters worse. If Walthamstow were dealt with in this manner, it would seem to be very unfair, seeing that it had already been decided that East Ham and Leyton, with populations of respectively 96,000 and 98,000, should each have one representative. Walthamstow had a population of 95,000, and the Committee would see at a glance that it would be most unjust to deal with it in special manner simply because it was desired to reduce the representation of outer London. This basis of representation which had been adopted in the constitution of the Water Board was the result, to a large extent, of a compromise between the various localities interested. He might have failed to secure a satisfactory arrangement, but at any rate it had not been from any want of trying. He sought to obtain the views of everybody concerned, from the Water Committee of the London County Council down to the representative of the smallest urban and rural areas. His object had been to find out what would satisfy them. He had tried to constitute a Board which would command their confidence, and his whole work would be undone if the Committee were now to make a change in the particular part of the scheme under debate. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would realise that, however good his object might be, he had adopted a very bad way of attaining it.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) thought the right hon. Gentleman would agree that they were now dealing with a small matter of purely administrative detail, which need arouse no Party feeling. They were endeavouring to arrive at an adjustment as between inner and outer London. He was perfectly ready to admit that the right hon. Gentleman could deal with it in a far better manner than any private individual Member, because he had all the necessary sources of information at his command. No one would deny that he had devoted a large amount of time and energy to the carrying out of the ideal with which he started. But then they did not accept his ideal, and they had always occupied that position. What the hon. Member for West Islington was trying to do by his Amendment was to suggest some change whereby the representation of inside and outside London should be made more proportionate to population and rateable value. No doubt the change proposed was not altogether satisfactory. But could not the right hon. Gentleman, who had himself suggested that the necessary alteration might be brought about in some better way, give them an idea of what the better plan was? Let him take this matter into his consideration as part of the scheme which, in the course of the previous day, he had promised to review. All they wanted was to get some reduction in the representation of the bodies outer of London, and they would be only too glad to hear what suggestion the right hon. Gentleman had to make on the point.

*MR. D. J. MORGAN (Essex, Walthamstow), said he hoped the Committee would not listen to any proposal to deprive Walthamstow of its representation on the Board. He would like to remind hon Members that the East London Water Works in the parish of Walthamstow covered 431 out of the 4,350 acres of which it was constituted. Again, the rateable value of that property was £22,600 out of a total rateable value of £348,000. He thought it would be excessively wrong, under these circumstances, to decline to give Walthamstow direct representation on the Water Board.

(1.0.) DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) pointed out that the balance of representation laid down in the Government scheme had already been upset by reducing the number of representatives of inner London by five. It was therefore, essential that they should revise the scheme for outer London. He confessed he was at some loss to understand the grounds on which the right hon. Gentleman had based his scheme of representation. But it having been entirely revolutionised as far as inner London was concerned, they had no alternative but to reconsider the case of outer London. The Member for Walthamstow naturally did not desire that his constituency should lose its representation. That was a proper spirit of patriotism. But the grounds upon which he had put forward his claim were somewhat extraordinary. He personally could not see why the fact that the East London Water Company had some works in the parish of Walthamstow justified the demand that that parish should have special representation. Admittedly they could not deprive Walthamstow of representation unless they also considered the cases of Leyton and East Ham. To touch one without dealing with the other was to create an injustice, and, therefore, the whole plan would have to be revised. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that, before the Report stage, he would consider whether some better scheme could not be devised, which would redress the balance between outer and inner London. If so, then the Amendments could be withdrawn.

MR. WALTER LONG said he had no hesitation in responding to the first practical suggestion which had been made for the solution of the whole question. He admitted that the reduction of the number of representatives for inner London altered the proportion between the inner and outer areas. As he had thought the original proportion fair, it must be taken that the present proportion was not fair. It was now proposed that the disproportion should be redressed by depriving a populous part of Essex of its representation. He could not possibly entertain that proposal, but the question remained, Could they rearrange the general grouping of the outer areas in such a way as to obtain from them a certain number of representatives who could be given to inner London? If they were allowed to regard the scheme of representation as complete, subject only to revision by the Government between the Committee and Report stages, he would be prepared to give the assurance asked for.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said they were indebted to the right hon. Gentleman for having given them a clear statement, which he accepted as a pledge that he would deal with this matter by some form of grouping. Some of his hon. friends around him had considered this question very carefully and had put down Amendments which would enable them to lay their suggestions before the right hon. Gentleman. There was this difficulty, that, by at once sweeping away all these Amendments, they were depriving themselves of the opportunity of laying their views before the right hon. Gentleman. It might be of some advantage to him to listen to some of their arguments. It was admitted that the representation of inner London was considerably below its proper proportion, when compared with outer London, on the basis of either ratable value or population. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman, in considering the re-grouping of the outer areas, would endeavour to make the final representation more equitable than it now was.

MR. WALTER LONG said he desired to be perfectly frank with the Committee, so that there might be no misapprehension as to the course he proposed to take. He thought it would be possible by some simple rearrangement of the outside areas to secure the release of four members. Those four members might, with advantage, be added to the representation of the London County Council. That would bring their representation up to the number proposed in the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for North-West Wiltshire, and would redress the balance between London Within and London Without. He could not absolutely commit himself now to any particular plan, because in grouping they were compelled to have regard to something more than numbers. There must be community of interest. He did not think, however, that such an arrangement as he had indicated was beyond the power of the Government; but he must ask that if this concession was made it would be in the spirit indicated in the closing remarks of the hon. Member for North Camberwell, viz., by the settlement for the time being of the present scheme of representation.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN thought the Committee, and especially his hon. friends behind him, would recognise the very reasonable spirit in which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken. The right hon. Gentleman had made a very substantial advance towards what was aimed at on both sides of the House. There would still remain what in the view of the Opposition was an overgrown governing body; but that, he was afraid, was beyond redemption. The right hon. Gentleman was very proud of his huge bantling, and he was afraid they could not induce him to abandon it. Without committing himself or anybody else to particulars, the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman seemed to indicate an arrangement which would meet a good many of the objections of his hon. friends, and if it was understood that an arrangement of that kind would be considered and proposed by the right hon. Gentleman, it would get rid, to a large extent, of elaborate argument.

Mr. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said he welcomed very heartily the statement of the President of the Local Government Board, because he believed it provided a most hopeful solution of the difficulty of securing a proper balance of representation.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.) said the right hon. Gentleman had spoken of community of interests. Might he point out to him it frequently occurred that a greater community of interests existed between two districts in different counties than between two districts in the same county, and so far as the outer circle of London was concerned, there was no reason whatever why there should not be a grouping of districts in different counties.

Dr. MACNAMARA joined in thanking the President of the Local Government Board for the statement he had made. When he suggested that they should drop all their Amendments, he did so on his own responsibility; but he would like to draw attention to the fact that he very much disliked the proposal to give representation to the Thames Conservancy and the Lea Conservancy. He thought that proposal, at any rate, would have to go. Still, hon. Members might under the circumstances hold over their Amendments until the right hon. Gentleman brought up his revised scheme.

Mr. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said he also would like to express his gratification with the statement of the President of the Local Government Board.

Mr. LOUGH said that the right hon. Gentleman had met them in a very liberal spirit. The change he had foreshadowed would, he believed, greatly improve the Bill. Of course, they would have to discuss the question of the representation of the Conservancies.

Mr. WALTER LONG said the representation of the Conservancies formed an important part of his scheme, but obviously, under the new proposals, that part also would have to come again under his consideration.

Mr. LOUGH said that after the promise of the right hon. Gentleman, which he looked upon as most important, to reconsider the representation of the Conservancies, he did not propose to press his Amendment.

Mr. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said he trusted the right hon. Gentleman, in putting the Conservancies into the melting-pot along with the representation of the outside areas, would bear in mind the fact that the Royal Commission on the Port of London had recommended that, so far as the water way was concerned, the Thames Conservancy should be abolished.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. REA (Gloucester) said he would like to make one or two observations with regard to the representation of outside London.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. There is no question before the Committee. Does the hon. Member intend to move his Amendment?

Mr. REA: No. I shall withdraw it.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then there being no question before the Committee the hon. Member is not entitled to speak.

Mr. REA said he would formally move his Amendment, in order to explain his own position and to ask whether the President of the Local Government Board would be willing to consider the principle which was embodied in his various Amendments.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 12, after 'Chingford,' to insert 'Ilford.'"—(*Mr. Rea.*)

Question proposed "That the word 'Ilford' be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he understood that the object of the hon. Member in this and the following Amendment was to bring into the scheme of representation some places which were now excluded. But he was bound to point out that a proposal of that kind would necessarily add largely to the size of the Board, whereas he had just undertaken to reconsider the scheme with a view to the reduction of the number of seats allotted to outer London. He had no reason to believe that the localities to which the hon. Member's Amendments referred were not perfectly satisfied with the general principles he had laid down in his scheme. But, in addition to that, he would point out that these districts had certain statutory rights which were protected by the scheme of the Bill, and, if at any time their position was so altered as to render it desirable to give them representation on the board, such a procedure was provided for in the Bill. He intended with all loyalty to carry out his promise to the Committee with regard to re-arranging the representation, and, under the circumstances, he could not agree to the Amendment of the hon. Member.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that the cases dealt with in the Amendments of the hon. Member were covered by the Clause alluded to. If at any future time they should become entitled to representation, power was given them to obtain it.

MR. CORRIE GRANT asked if the right hon. Gentleman would allow any of the outside authorities who wished to communicate with him before he produced his revised scheme.

MR. WALTER LONG: Certainly.

MR. REA said that after the concession on the more important point made by the right hon. Gentleman, he was quite willing to leave the less important question raised by his Amendments to his consideration.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CORRIE GRANT asked what course the President of the Local Government Board proposed to take with regard to the Amendment of the hon. Member for North West Durham dealing with the date of appointment of the Water Board. Would that have to be dealt with on the Schedule?

Mr. Walter Long.

MR. WALTER LONG: Yes; it is a matter which appertains to the Schedule.

MR. CORRIE GRANT inquired if it would not be more convenient to deal with it when the right hon. Gentleman brought up his new scheme on the Report stage.

MR WALTER LONG said he could have no possible objection to deferring all these matters to the Report Stage. It was obviously to his advantage.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he did not propose to insist upon his undoubted right to generally discuss the Amendment of the Government, although he held that, by applying the Closure after three hours debate on the preceding night, the Government had deprived themselves of any title to consideration in that direction.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Words [of Mr. WALTER LONG'S Amendment as amended] inserted.

(1.30.) MR. JOHN BURNS rose to move the following Amendment—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 26, at end, to insert 'A member appointed by a constituent authority shall cease to be a member of the Board if he cease to be a member of the authority appointing him.'"

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN stated that this would come more properly as an Amendment on the Fourth Schedule of the Bill.

MR. JOHN BURNS appealed to the President of the Local Government Board to take the proposal into consideration between now and the time when the Fourth Schedule would come before the Committee.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON had the following Amendment on the Paper—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 26, at end, to insert 'Provided that the term of office of chairman and vice-chairman appointed by the Local Government Board shall be one year and no more.'"

The hon. Member was proceeding to speak in support of the Amendment, when——

Mr. GRANT LAWSON interposed and said this referred to a matter which was dealt with in the Fourth Schedule.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said the proper procedure would be to move this as an Amendment on the Fourth Schedule.

*Mr. REA moved to leave out sub-Section (4) of Clause I., which provides—

> "The Water Board shall pay to the chairman and vice-chairman such salaries as the Board may determine."

He said this proposal would, in the first place, add neither to the dignity nor efficiency of the Board, and in the second place it was opposed to all the best precedents in such cases. On the Second Reading of the Bill the President of the Local Government Board stated that if they wanted good work they must pay for it. This appeared to him to be a fallacy under the guise of an aphorism, if by payment was meant simply and only a money payment. If it were true, then England must be the worst-governed country in the world, because clearly our local government was in the hands of the unpaid, from the magistrates down to the parish councillors. The principle was fundamentally wrong. The elected representatives must be masters, and the paid should be their servants. The condition of payment not only failed to increase the efficiency but it diminished efficiency by practically restricting the range of choice. The best men and the most desirable to enlist in the local public services of the country were not those who would accept a paid position. Suppose, for example, that this condition had been imposed upon the London County Council when it was established, would that body have been able to secure the services of Lord Rosebery as its first chairman? And, if instead of Lord Rosebery, it had been presided over by a salaried official, would not the whole tone and character of that body have been altered, and was it likely that the many distinguished members of that Board would have sought election if they had been ruled and dominated by two salaried officials? Still less if those two salaried officials had been imposed upon them by the Local Government Board, as was now to be the case in the first London Water Board. He said officials, because the fact of a salary tended to differentiate those who received it from the members who did not receive it. A salaried chairman was likely to become a permanent chairman, and his re-election at the end of each term to follow as a matter of course, and the real control to remain in the hands of those who were expected, by virtue of their salaries, to devote all their time to the work for which they were paid. The true principle of all local government was that the salaried official should be the servant, and the unpaid elected representative the master, and this proposal tended to reverse this order. There was a sense in which it was true that if you wanted good work you must pay, but there were other payments than money payments, and it was these other rewards—the reward of public influence, and respect and consciousness of good work done—that would attract the best men, who were altogether superior to the attractions of a salaried office. He maintained that this proposal tended to lower the dignity, and not to increase, but to impair the efficiency of the Water Board about to be established. Further, although it would not be correct to say that this proposal was unprecedented, the good precedents were against it, and the precedents for it were the bad precedents. The precedents for it which would occur to the minds of all hon. Members was that of the Metropolitan Board of Works under the Metropolis Management Act of 1855. The Metropolitan Board was required to

> "elect the Chairman of the said Board, and to decide upon the amount of salary to be paid to such Chairman, such salary not to be less than £1,500 and not to exceed £2,000 per annum."

But in following the precedent of the Metropolis Management Act, the Government had not only repeated, but exaggerated its defects, and had not only proposed a salaried chairman, but also a salaried vice chairman. For the latter proposal he believed there was absolutely no precedent whatever. It was dangerous to state and difficult to prove a universal negative, but he challenged the right hon. Gentleman to give the Committee a precedent for a paid vice-chairman of a representative local authority.

Against the proposal could be quoted not only the practice of all the more important Councils — Local Government, County, Municipal and others—but there were some definite precedents, very much to the point. About the same time as the Metropolitan Board of Works was created, another body of equal importance was set up—a Board upon which seats were sought as eagerly as were seats in this House—the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. It was impossible to believe that a statutory salary attached to the office of chairman of that Board would have attracted the services of the series of distinguished commercial men, who had so ably presided over that most successful and influential body. The London County Council was given power, under the Local Government Act of 1888, Section 2, and the Municipal Corporations Act of 1882, Section 15, to pay its chairman "such remuneration as the Council might think reasonable," but a salaried chairman was never imposed upon it by authority; it was a matter of choice, and the Council had never paid its chairman any salary or remuneration; if it had it would never have had Lord Rosebery as chairman. It was also empowered to pay to its deputy-chairman "such remuneration as it might think fit," and when the Council was established, it did pay a deputy-chairman during the time occupied in settling the Council's organisation. But the deputy-chairman was not the president and the head. He was the head of the staff, and formed a link between the Council and the staff, and the last payment was made to him in 1895. Since that date the Council had not paid any member, and even those members of it who were appointed as representatives of the Thames Conservancy Board and the Lee Conservancy Board were required to pay over to the Council any fee or consideration received from either of those Boards in respect of their services, so careful was the London County Council to avoid a suspicion of self-interest on the part of its members. The London School Board had power under the Elementary Education Act of 1870 to pay its chairman "such salary as they may from time to time, with the sanction of the Education Department, fix." But they had been far too wise to take advantage of the permission accorded to them, and no one who knew the present able and distinguished chairman could imagine him either consenting to accept a salaried position, or to act under the rule of two paid officials. This proposal struck the keynote of the whole Bill. It was the note of the Metropolitan Board of Works. Such popular and representative elements as the Board might seem to possess were so indirect, so complicated and so cumbrous, as to be practically of little value, but this proposal, if carried out, effectually extinguished them. There were many citizens of character, influence and ability, who would be willing to accept such positions as those of chairman or vice-chairman of this Board without fee or reward; these were effectually repelled and excluded. Such men would not consent to serve on a Board, the highest positions in which were witheld from them. The sub-Section had nothing to recommend it from any point of view, except that of the two fortunate gentleman to be nominated by the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out sub-Section (4)."—(*Mr. Rea.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON appealed to the Government, if they could not accept the Amendment, to leave the payment of salaries to the option of the Board. He was sure his hon. friend would consider that a satisfactory settlement. In his view this body ought to have power to pay salaries if they liked; but it should not be put upon them as an obligation. Certainly all the precedents were in favour of giving the option to the Board in regard to the matter of salaries. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman could cite a single case in which the payment of salaries to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman was forced upon a public body as an obligation. The right hon. Gentleman professed to trust this new body, and, that being so, the hon. Member did not see why they should not have the option of paying the Chairman or not, as they might see fit. In connection with a large body there was a tendency for the work to fall into the hands of officials, and if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in this case were necessarily paid, the work would get still more into the hands of officials, and thus the interest of others in it would be reduced. One of the evils of the Metropolitan Board of Works was that the Chairman was a paid official. That was the real difficulty. When a Chairman was paid he got a sort of vested interest in that particular berth, and it became very difficult to put a new person in his place. The right hon. Gentleman had been so conciliatory in these matters that he appealed to him to give at least the option to the Board to pay the Chairman and Vice-Chairman or not.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that this was a more serious matter than some hon. Members might be disposed to admit. There were many very able and distinguished men who had enjoyed greater privileges than he could command, and who had a strong disposition—having leisure and ability—to devote these to the service of the community. Now, such men would refuse to take office if it were made compulsory for them to accept payment. He would, therefore, suggest to the President of the Local Government Board that he should allow his mind to remain in a state of flux on this question, and postpone the acceptance of either view put before the Committee until the Report stage. He submitted that suggestion because he did not want any payment for any public office in London to rule out the very best men—whether they were rich or poor. Many men who had made or acquired a fortune would make most excellent chairmen of public bodies, but if payment of a salary were made obligatory they would refuse to accept office. For instance, the London School Board had, as a rule, very able, distinguished, and devoted Chairmen, and the London School Board were in a position to pay them a salary if they thought fit. He was glad to say that all the Chairmen had been rich enough to dispense with pay. On the other hand the Metropolitan Board of Works had a paid Chairman. Now, he had had a great regard for dear old Lord Magheramore, but the effect of making the payment compulsory was to keep in the Chair a man who was brilliant when appointed longer than he should have been. The London County Council did not pay its Chairman: it was not in the mode. On the other hand, he ventured to say that it was a great misfortune that the pay of the Deputy-Chairman was abolished. A very distinguished man might be induced to accept the Chair who could afford to do so without pay, and if the Deputy-Chairman were paid he would have all the technical and routine range of administration in his hands, and by consultation with the Chairman the advantages of both systems would be secured with the disadvantages of neither. He respectfully suggested that they should allow the President of the Local Government Board to consider this matter till the Report stage, and probably the right hon. Gentleman would then be able to bring up a suggestion that would be acceptable to both sides of the House.

MR. WALTER LONG thought that there was no real difference between hon. Gentlemen opposite and the Government on this subject. The Government, of course, could not accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Gloucester, but they might accept that of the hon. Member for Poplar. The Clause said that a salary should be paid, but it was to be such a salary as the Board might determine. As the actual amount rested with the new body there could be no objection for following the usual course of substituting "may" for "shall."

MR. REA asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—" In page 2, line 1, to leave out 'shall,' and insert 'may.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'shall' stand part of the Clause."

MR. LOUGH said that his objection to this Amendment was that it did not go far enough. There was a distinct suggestion in it that both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman might be paid.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said he wanted to move an Amendment which he thought the right hon. Gentleman would accept at once—viz., that instead of the words "Chairman and Vice-Chairman" in line 1 in the 4th sub-Section, they should read "Chairman or Vice-Chairman." As the sub-Section at present stood it might be construed that if the Board paid the Chairman they would be bound to pay the Vice-Chairman.

Amendment proposed—"In page 2, line 1, to leave out 'and' and insert 'or.'"—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'and' stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said that, of course, he was no lawyer, but it appeared to him that this change of language might lead to another misapprehension. It might mean that the Board must pay one or other, but not both. The sub-Section as it stood would leave it to the option of the Board to pay one or the other or both.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said he wanted to raise another point. The sub-Section at present read that the Board should pay to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman "such salaries as the Board may determine." He suggested that it should read "salary or salaries." If the right hon. Gentleman accepted that Amendment he would withdraw his first.

MR. LOUGH said he objected to the withdrawal of the hon. Gentleman's first Amendment, because one salary was enough. If they were to have two highly paid officials, the utility of the Board would be imperilled. He objected very strongly that it should be open to the Board to pay both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.

(2.0.) MR. CORRIE GRANT said he thought his hon. friend was pressing the matter too far. What was wanted, after all, in Acts of Parliament was to lay down a principle. The right hon. Gentleman had agreed that the Water Board should have a free hand; why should that not apply to the Vice-Chairman, as well as to the Chairman?

MR. JOHN BURNS said he joined with his hon. friend the Member for the Rugby Division in asking the President of the Local Government Board to accept the two lines in the form suggested by his hon. friend, viz., that the Water Board might pay either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman such a salary as the Board might determine. That would give a free hand. They wanted to give the greatest freedom to the water authority, and to get the best men possible.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he entirely agreed with what had just been said by his hon. friend.

MR. LOUGH said that if the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman were coupled together, the strict interpretation of the law would be that however one was treated the other should be also treated. The matter would not be absolutely clear.

Amendment negatived.

Amendments made—"In page 2, line 1, by inserting after the word 'Chairman,' the words 'or either of them'; and by inserting after the word 'such' the words 'salary or.'"—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 2, to leave out 'the Board,' and insert 'in the case of persons appointed by the Local Government Board, that Board, and in any other case the Water Board.'"—(*Mr. W. F. D. Smith.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'the Board' stand part of the Clause."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he ventured to appeal to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, and to the Committee, especially after what had occurred during the last few days, to restore the Clause to its original form. Towards the end of the proceedings in Committee, when hon. Members were not so wary as they might have been, and were rather weary, they allowed the Amendment to pass. Matters had altered a good deal since, and the Committee had decided to leave the question of salaries to the Board itself. It would be a great reflection on the business capacity and administrative ability of the new Board, if it was to be thought that out of sixty-eight members it did not contain two righteous men capable of acting as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Unless that power were given to the Board, it would have no voice in the election of its Chairman and Vice-Chairman during the first four years, which would be the most critical period of its existence. Purchase would have to be carried out, and the administrative policy of the Board would be put on a proper footing. For these reasons he asked the Committee to restore the Bill to its original form and reject the Amendment.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said he thought it would be rather a reflection on the Board if it were provided that it could not elect two of its members to act as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. There would be several very able gentlemen on the Board, members of the County Council and of the Borough Councils who were acquainted with the subject. Moreover, members of the Board would naturally aspire to the chief position, especially at the first onslaught; and he hoped, therefore, that the Government would put back the Clause in its original form.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster) said he had moved this Amendment on behalf of his hon. friend the Member for Chelsea, in whose name it stood on the Paper, but he confessed that he could not altogether disagree with what had been said. It was quite clear that when the option was given to the Board to pay or not to pay its Chairman or Vice-Chairman, the Local Government Board would find it difficult to get hold of a capable man who would be ready to sacrifice his present occupation for another with a problematical salary. In these circumstances, he would be prepared to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that the Committee was practically unanimous in the matter; and he would therefore appeal to the President of the Local Government Board to facilitate the passing of the Bill, and above all, to stimulate the desire of the very best men to serve on the Board, by agreeing to the Amendment being withdrawn. He was perfectly convinced that if the hon. Member for Chelsea, who had a very practical mind, were present he would concur in that.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was quite prepared, on behalf of the Government, to agree to the withdrawal of the Amendment. They would then revert to the original proposal in the Bill. The change was made hurriedly, and since it had been made a very different position had arisen. As the Board would now have the power of fixing the salaries, he thought it would be far better to leave the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman to it. He therefore suggested that the Amendment should be withdrawn; and on the Report stage he would move an Amendment restoring the Bill to its original form.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn. (2.15.)

Amendment made—

"In line 4, by leaving out 'fourth' and inserting third.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

MR. LOUGH said that although some steps had been taken to meet their objections, Members on that side of the House could not view with complacency the setting up of a Water Board. Concessions on points of detail had been made, but the essential principle of the Bill was now being passed, and that was a matter against which all who sympathised with the great progressive majority in London local affairs ought to protest to the last. Clause 1 set up a Water Board, but no Water Board was wanted. The water supply might very well be left in the hands of the municipal authority, just as was done everywhere else. The London County Council, which was constituted the water authority ten years ago by Parliament itself, and had spent a great deal of money in preparing Bills and acquiring information, could have dealt with the matter extremely well. He had never been able to recognise the substance of the argument of the right hon. Gentleman that the outer areas required representation on the body controlling the supply. No doubt a considerable amount of the population resided outside the limits of the County of London, but the proportion was not nearly so large as in other great cities which controlled their own water supply, for whereas in London the proportion was 23 per cent., in Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds and Glasgow it was nearly 30 per cent. Therefore, the difficulty created by the supply of outside authorities existed elsewhere, but had never been taken as a reason why the municipal authority should not have the control of the water supply. Even if it were granted that some kind of Board should be set up, that proposed by the Bill was an extremely bad one. If representation of outside bodies was to be, it should be confined to County Councils, just as inside the control should be given to the London County Council. Under the fantastic proposals of the Bill, electoral colleges were to be set up; several outside areas with local governing bodies of their own were to be grouped, and then elect one member to the Board —a scheme which no more satisfied the areas concerned than it pleased the people of London. Already a Bill had been prepared by Kent, and other counties would probably follow, to secure severance from this arrangement. Unless care were taken, the so-called "Mother of Parliaments" would lose its faculty of creating even municipal bodies capable of discharging the duties entrusted to them. This Water Board, even as amended, would be the worst and most impracticable body Parliament had ever created. It had the worst constituency; the framework was ricketty, the body was too large for its work, it would not be animated by any common interests or guided by any distinct and clear principle. He should, therefore, vote against the Clause.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said the conciliatory attitude of the President of the Local Government Board on the question of amending the constitution of the Board in detail did not affect the objections he entertained to the whole principle of the Clause, and he therefore joined in the protest against its adoption. He also protested against a Bill of such importance and complexity being taken at this stage of the session. The autumn sittings were held for the purpose of discussing, not a London Water Bill, but the Education Bill, the debates on which were closured to secure the passage of that measure by a certain date, and not to make time for the Bill now under consideration. He considered it a great abuse of the power of the majority to force such a measure through the House of Commons.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Member that he must confine his remarks to Clause 1.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON contended that the constitution of the Board was contrary to the principle on which municipal government was founded, viz., that questions of central administration should be put in the hands of a central body, local matters being managed locally, and that such a body should be directly representative. Some hon. Members seemed to think that because the Opposition opposed the inclusion of the Borough Councils, they were casting a reflection on the members of those Councils. That was not the case at all. The sole point was—For what purpose, and on what basis were they elected? It could not be contended that a single borough councillor was elected because of his knowledge of, or interest in, the water question, whereas the bulk of the members of the London County Council were elected largely for that reason, the question of the water supply having been one of the principal matters on which the last election was fought. The President of the Local Government Board had said that even if borough councillors did not know much about the subject now, it would be a matter of interest at future elections, and they would be able to acquire knowledge. That might be so, but the question of whether the Board would be successful—by which he meant whether it would purchase and manage the undertaking of the companies economically — would really depend on the first four years of its existence, and it was during those years that borough councillors would be elected without any special knowledge of the subject. He cast no reflection on the Borough Councils, but it would have been far better that a matter of such importance should be entrusted to a body more or less elected for the purpose, rather than to persons not so elected. The question of the size of the Board had already been debated at considerable length. It was generally admitted that as a working body the Board was far too large. The Water Board was to take over a going concern. The Water Companies, if amalgamated, would not dream of keeping all the present directors; they would certainly effect a large reduction, and probably a Board of thirty or even less would be considered sufficient. In reply to the argument that the water supply in other towns was managed by a comparatively small committee, it had been urged that a larger body was necessary here because London was so much larger. But a larger duty did not necessarily require a larger committee. The Chelsea Water Company, with nine directors, managed the affairs of 250,000 consumers, whereas the East London Company, also with nine directors, managed the affairs of 1,250,000, so that on the basis of the Chelsea Company the East London Company ought to have a Board of forty-five instead of nine directors. He desired to enter a strong protest against the principle upon which this Water Board was to be constructed, because it gave the go-by to what in every other town would be the natural authority, namely, the central authority. He also objected to the proposal on the ground that the new body was such a large one that the result would be that instead of the Water Board being to the advantage of the ratepayers and consumers, it would be a great charge upon the former and no benefit at all to the latter.

(3.3) MR. WALTER LONG said he would only trouble the Committee with a very few remarks. The hon. Member for Poplar had stated that the Water Board was too big, and that the members of the metropolitan boroughs were not elected upon any understanding that the management of the water supply would become any part of their duties. The hon. Member also said that by its size and constitution it constituted a departure from the recognised principle of municipal government. He joined issue absolutely with the hon. Member upon this point. Hon. Gentlemen opposite talked about disregarding the central authority, but the London County Council was given a much larger representation than any other area, and he had undertaken to add to that representation the members who might be released by any alteration in reference to any other body. It had been said that this Clause gave a dual representation to certain parts, and then it was immediately claimed that the representation of London was to be regarded only from the point of view of the London County Council. When the hon. Members opposite stated that London had only one-fifth of the representation they ignored altogether the representation which was given to the metropolitan boroughs, the members of which represented London just as much as the members of the London County Council. The hon. Member said that the Borough Councils were not elected to deal with water. He did not know from his own knowledge exactly what took place at the elections, but he had been assured that in many cases the water question did form a very considerable part of the discussions which attended those elections. How did hon. Members who opposed this proposal deal with the fact that in many cases the gentlemen who were members of the metropolitan Borough Councils were also members of the London County Council? Surely these gentlemen ought to be exempt from the general condemnation which the hon. Member sought to pass upon the Borough Councils.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: They have had two elections.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not care whether they had had two or twenty elections. What he was seeking to point out was that a man who was thought good enough to be a member of a metropolitan Borough Council was thought in some cases to be good enough to be even a member of the London County Council. To those gentlemen the hon. Member's criticisms are to be applied. They were asked to believe that London was in a state of hopeless poverty in regard to municipal administration; that the administration of the water supply was so abstruse and so different from any other form of local government, and so difficult in its nature to any other part of municipal work, that a man must be born in the middle of a lake to be able to understand it. How did the members of municipal boroughs obtain their knowledge and experience? Were they specially trained for the work? Was it to be seriously put forward as an argument that before they created any new bodies they must have some special training in the work they were asking them to perform? If that argument held good it meant that they were never to bring into existence new bodies for special work unless they had had some special training. There was no reason why the metropolitan boroughs should not provide as good and capable members for the new Water Board as the London County Council or any other body. Hon. Gentlemen opposite entirely ignored the fact that Water London was not the London of the London County Council. They also ignored the fact that the London County Council had produced schemes and Royal Commissions, and Joint Committees had made recommendations not one of which had ever found acceptance in London or in the surrounding areas. They might abuse this scheme as much as they liked, but it was the first measure which had found general acceptance amongst all the bodies concerned with the exception of the London County Council. He desired to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that the criticisms and the attacks made upon this Clause came in the main, not from those representing the districts, but from hon. Gentlemen opposite, who made them because they were entirely opposed to the whole of the Government proposals. They said the Bill was unworkable, and doomed to failure because it was a bad scheme, but from the point of view of practical politics it was the best scheme they could produce. He did not share the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite in regard to the size of the Board, for he believed that they would find plenty of men of public spirit in London ready to join this new Board who would do the work intelligently, and with a devotion to the public interest. [OPPOSITION cries of "Hear, hear!"] If they believed that, why did they indulge in these melancholy forebodings as to this new authority? He acknowledged that the discussions on Clause 1 had not been in any way unduly prolonged, and in the main they had been of a practical character. He hoped they would proceed to discuss the other Clauses in the same spirit. He was glad that hon. Members had laid stress upon the fact that the main questions in regard to this Bill were to be found in Clause 1, and he hoped the rest of the Clauses would make even a smaller demand upon the time of the House. In conclusion, he wished to say that in his opinion any other proposal different in principle from the one the Government had submitted would have failed to find general acceptance in the areas affected.

DR. MACNAMARA said that he entirely dissented from the view taken by the President of the Local Government Board. He was not opposed to the principle of purchase, or the terms of purchase in the Bill, and least of all was he opposed to the three distinguished men who were to constitute the Board of Arbitration. What they were opposed to was the constitution and the number of the members of the Water Board. He thought the President of the Local Government Board had met them very fairly and handsomely in dealing with this Board. The right hon. Gentleman had agreed to increase the number of representatives of the London County Council and to slightly reduce the number of members of the Water Board, but they still contended that the size of the Board would be too large and unwieldy. It would number sixty-eight. The right hon. Gentleman said that its constitution was in accordance with precedent, but it was not in accordance with the recommendations of any Royal Commission or Committee which he had studied for the special case of London. There was not, as far as he was aware, a Water Board in the country which numbered more than twenty-six, and the number went down to as low as nine in the case of Birmingham. As to the constitution, he was entirely opposed to the representation of the Borough Councils at all. There was no justification for it. The constituencies of the Borough Councils were already represented through the London County Council. He did not say anything against the personnel of the Borough Councils, for he believed they were composed of as good men as the members of the County Councils from an administrative point of view. The issue he was most concerned with was the financial issue. On the financial question, London, as a whole, was concerned, and the fiduciary of London's financial interests was the County Council and not the Borough Councils. He objected to the secondary system of election as being a thoroughly bad one as far as London was concerned. It might develop financial scandals which brought so much discredit on the Metropolitan Board of Works. The Chancellor of the Exchequer himself once stated that no system of delegated elections would by any means prove satisfactory. The Prime Minister, speaking on the London Government Bill in February, 1899, upon a proposal that the London County Council should be constituted by selection from the then existing Vestries and Boards of Works, said that such a proposal would be a revival, to a certain extent, of the principle adopted, tried, and finally rejected, in the case of the Metropolitan Board of Works. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say in the same speech that this principle would introduce in the London County Council an element of secondary election, and although he thought there were many cases in which secondary election worked extremely well, still it had not a very good record behind it in the case of the Metropolitan Board of Works. He did not think that in the London Water Bill the Government had adopted the sound democratic principles put forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister upon the occasions he had alluded to.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich): Perhaps the hon. Member will deal with the aldermen.

DR. MACNAMARA said they did not mention aldermen, and he did not quite understand the hon. Member's interruption. He had read to the Committee all that was germane to this point. Having regard to the remoteness from the electorate which many of the members of the Water Board would stand in, they might have some of the financial scandals which had left behind such a bad odour in the nostrils of London people generally in the case of the Metropolitan Board of Works.

*MR. THORNTON (Clapham) said that as one of the representatives of a London constituency he desired to point out that there was some evidence in the record of what happened before the Joint Committee which considered this water question which had not been duly appraised during these debates. They had been told that facts were overwhelmingly in favour of minimising the number of the body to control the water supply, and it had been said that there was scarcely anything to be said on the other side. Hon. Members opposite must have overlooked the evidence on this point given by the Mayors of the Borough Councils, and others connected with the smaller districts outside London, as to the number of the Water Board. The first Mayor of Wandsworth, Mr. Lidiard, was asked what he thought in regard to the number proposed, and he replied that he did not think the number was too large, and believed that the reason why the Metropolitan Board of Works failed was in consequence of it being too small, and they had not enough to do the work. He had consulted many others connected with local government, and he found they were quite in unison with Mr. Lidiard's opinion that if the Metropolitan Board of Works had been larger, confusion and corruption would not have been so prevalent. The business was left to a few members, with the result that it fell into the hands of those who were guilty of corruption. As to the Borough Councils, some of them were not only riparian, but also possessed water supplies of their own in the shape of wells. Indeed, this was true of the two boroughs he represented, Battersea and Wandsworth. The borough had a right to representation, and he was sure the Bill would not be so welcome if they were omitted. The Government had been very wise in bringing the Borough Councils into their scheme, and he was perfectly certain that this measure would not have been so popular if they had not been included. He thanked the Committee for allowing him to give his experience.

(3.30.) MR. JOHN BURNS said he should be extremely indebted to the Member for Clapham if, instead of going outside of his own constituency for evidence in support of this measure, he would confine himself to the views expressed by the Borough Council in his own Parliamentary Division. The hon. Member invariably quoted the case of Wandsworth, but why did he not quote the Battersea Borough Council? The hon. Member would find that on the water question the Borough Council of Battersea was strongly opposed to the view which he now expressed, had frequently, by resolution, asked that the County Council should be the authority, and had strongly condemned some of the inequitable provisions of this Bill. The hon. Member for Clapham ought to be more cautious when quoting Mr. Lidiard, who belonged to the Conservative Party. [An HON. MEMBER: Mr. Lidiard is not a Conservative at all.] Mr. Lidiard was the most reactionary Conservative that ever cursed the south-western district by his activity.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. Member that we are now discussing Clause 1.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the hon. Member for Clapham had quoted Mr. Lidiard with approval. He could only say that if he had read the evidence further he would have found a contradiction of the view he wished to convey. On the question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill, it was not necessary for him to add anything to what had been said in opposition by the hon. Member for North Camberwell and the hon. Member for Poplar except this. The President of the Local Government Board might think it rather ungracious for the London Members on this side of the House, after the concessions which had been made today, to have made certain speeches. He did not wish to say anything unpleasant after the genial and conciliatory way in which the right hon. Gentleman had acted. The right hon. Gentleman had done much to facilitate the passage of the Bill by the attitude he had taken up in giving the County Council four new members, and making various other alterations in Clause 1, which, after all, was the governing Clause of the Bill. If anything had been said that grated upon the ear, either of the President of the Local Government Board or the other London Members, it was due to the fact that, rightly or wrongly, he and others believed that the principle underlying this Clause and the whole Bill to some extent filled them with doubts, misgivings, and apprehensions for the future. They would be unwise as opponents of the Bill unless they put it permanently on record that they sincerely disapproved of the measure, that they believed it to be unworkable, and that they thought it dangerous. What was more, they believed, though they did not hope, that it would be disastrous. But why did they say this? The hon. Member for Peckham and himself were, politically, wide as the Poles asunder, but if the hon. Member was on the County Council he would probably be made a member of the Finance Committee, and if they had to send fourteen members to the new Water Board, notwithstanding that the hon. Member had been too much in favour of the Water Companies' views with respect to this Bill, he himself should be one of the first to nominate him as one of the County Council representatives in order that this business might be conducted with financial knowledge and commercial probity. He should rather have the hon. Member for Peckham, in association with the members of the Finance Committee of the County Council, to negotiate for the purchase of the water undertakings than a body of sixty-eight Radical and Tory County Councillors, without financial and commercial experience, in a large room, for Mr. Pember, Mr. Littler, and five or six other gentlemen representing the Water Companies, to experiment with. In getting this ship ready for launching, arranging its manning, and indicating its course, the Local Government Board had a serious responsibility on their shoulders for the next two or three years, and he appealed to them to remember that this Bill must mean a heavy increase in the very high rates of London, unless it was successfully and economically worked. He would advise the Local Government Board in the first two years not to be too stiff-necked, but to be adaptable and assimilative with regard to the interests of London in this matter, and if any of their preconceived ideas should show signs of going wrong, or if there was the least sign of extravagance, perhaps maladministration, due to inexperience, want of knowledge, or to the fact that the Board was being exploited by vested interests, he would suggest to the President of the Local Government Board that he should come to the House with an amending Bill to remedy the defects or abuses. He appealed to the President of the Local Government Board to watch the earlier stages with the closest attention and a full sense of responsibility. He could promise that, though the London County Council had opposed the Bill strongly, and disagreed with Clause 1, they would do everything in their power to make the Bill work smoothly and economically, and to make it as good as it possibly could be made. The London County Council had asked to be entrusted with this work, and it was not their fault that the House and the Government declined to accede to that; it might be London's misfortune. Having pointed out the defects of the Bill, they hoped its working would prove that their apprehensions were unfounded and their suspicions groundless, and that the members of the Water Board would show that devotion and capacity in the performance of their work which the London County Council for thirteen years had displayed in the discharge of their multifarious duties.

Sir GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.) said he was sure the London members one and all concurred in what the hon. Member for Battersea had said at the close of his speech. They hoped the Bill would work well and for the good of London. He understood that the hon. Member for Camberwell and the hon. Member for Battersea objected strongly to the constitution of the Board on the ground that it was very much on the lines of the old Metropolitan Board of Works. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had, he dared say, alarmed some Members of the House by producing a voluminous Blue-book and suggesting that it was one long indictment against that Board. He had the honour of being elected a member of the old Metropolitan Board of Works, and he could say, most emphatically, that no body ever did its work better than that Board. Might he refer the hon. Member to the following statement in the Interim Report of the Royal Commissioners—

> "There has hitherto been no evidence that corruption or malpractice has affected or marred the greater part of the work which it has accomplished. The same may be said, too, in relation to the conduct of the vast majority of the members of the Board . . . . but against the vast majority of them not even a suspicion of corruption or misconduct has been breathed. We believe that many members of the Board have cheerfully given for the public good much valuable time, and have rendered most important public services."

He would not trouble the Committee with other extracts which he might quote, but he hoped they would accept the statement he had read as showing that there was a general acquittal of the Board. He believed the Board had left a good record behind it. Since he had been a Member of this House he had always taken the opportunity of contradicting any statement which implied a slur on that old body.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would remind the hon. Member that we are not discussing the Metropolitan Board of Works.

Sir GEORGE FARDELL said this was a personal matter, and if he had transgressed he hoped he would be forgiven.

Mr. CORRIE GRANT thought they were agreed that the hon. Member for South Paddington was entitled to say something in defence of a body of which he was a member, but the argument he had addressed to the Committee did not bear on the point now under discussion. The point under discussion was not whether a minority of the Board of Works were corrupt——

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I stopped the hon. Member for South Paddington when he was discussing the Metropolitan Board of Works. I hope the hon. Member will now confine his attention to Clause 1.

Mr. CORRIE GRANT said he was not going to pursue the discussion of the Metropolitan Board of Works, but as that Board had been used as an illustration in regard to the question whether indirect representation was a good thing or not, he thought he was addressing himself to that point. All he wanted to say was that they were very anxious on the Opposition side of the House to make it clear that they did not accept the principle which was laid down in Clause 1 of the Bill, namely, the roundabout indirect representation proposed. It was not entitled to be described as popular control. This measure of the Government was going backward and not forward. They should have been very pleased if the Government had seen their way to give direct control to the electors. That was what they had been fighting for; but they had not succeeded in attaining it, and they wished to make this protest before the Clause went to a division.

(3.48.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 124; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 610.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J (Manch'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn. A Graham (Bute
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby, de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Atherley-Jones, L.
Brigg, John
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Fenwick, Charles
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Partington, Oswald
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Mr. Corrie Grant.

Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Causton and Mr. John Sinclair.

Clause 2 :—

(4.0.) Mr. LOUGH said he desired to move the Amendment standing on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Devonport, viz., to leave out of the second sub-Section of Clause 2 the words "as compensation for the transfer of their undertaking," and insert "in consideration of the undertaking so transferred." The object of this Amendment was to restore the sub-Section to the shape in which it was originally introduced. The word "compensation" did not appear in the Bill as originally drawn, and he could not understand how the word had got into the Bill. It had been agreed that the arbitration should not be strictly under the Lands Clauses Act, and that compensation for disturbance should not lie in this case. The idea of compensation came in where a private individual held some property which was compulsorily taken from him for a public purpose against his will. No such consideration came in in the present case. The Water Companies had exercised the functions which should have been exercised by the public, and they had gained the advantage of the increase in the value of property at every quinquennial valuation. He was assured that when the Government originally introduced the Bill, in which the word "compensation" did not appear, they felt that an exceptional arrangement should be made in this case, and that the extra amount for compensation over and above the value of the property should not be given.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 14, to leave out the words 'as compensation for the transfer of their undertaking,' and insert 'in consideration for the undertaking so transferred.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he thought that as a matter of strict interpretation it would have been better that this Amendment had been moved to the Arbitration Clause rather than to this Clause. He was quite willing, however, to take the discussion on the matter of principle now. For his own part, he did not attach the same importance as some hon. Gentleman did to the distinction between the two words "compensation," and "consideration." Those who advocated before the Joint Select Committee the substitution of "compensation" for "consideration," which was originally in the Bill, held very strongly that where there was a compulsory purchase from an unwilling vendor, the words ought to be wide enough to secure that the price paid should be the full value of the property taken in the public interest. While the Government adopted the Lands Clauses Act, they thought it best to follow the suggestion of the Royal Commission, and enact that the additional ten per cent. should not be specifically paid for these purchases. He was inclined to think that the course adopted by the Joint Select Committee in substituting "compensation" for "consideration" was the right one, after having heard the evidence and carefully weighed it. He therefore would ask the Committee to adhere to that decision.

Mr. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said it seemed to him that the Government had originally used the word "consideration," to which no very definite meaning could be attached, in order to get out of the difficulty of the controversy; and the right hon. Gentleman now told them that as exception had been taken in the Committee upstairs to the word "consideration," the word "compensation" had been put in because it meant something different from "consideration." He took the right hon. Gentleman to refer to the case of an unwilling vendor selling a going concern; but the word "compensation" was so vague in this connection that no one knew what it meant. That was a deplorable way of meeting the case, and would give rise to great uncertainty. The Government should have some definite meaning in their minds in this matter.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he had stated times out of number, both on the Second Reading and on the Committee stage, what the views of the Government were. They had stated clearly that in their view the purchase should be conducted on the lines of the Lands Clauses Acts, in which a property was compulsorily acquired in the general interest, but they had exempted the special addition of ten per cent.

MR. HALDANE said that his comment on the right hon. Gentleman's statement was that the word "compensation" conveyed nothing of all that. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that he wished that this property should be assessed by the arbitrators on the footing that it was a property sold by an unwilling vendor; but the word "compensation" left the question which the Committee were now discussing undetermined. The law courts would not give a brass farthing for any statement made by the right hon. Gentleman in Committee when they came to interpret an Act of Parliament. Language with some meaning should be put into the Clause. The word "compensation" was merely a way of covering up the point. Surely it was possible for the Government, either now or at some subsequent stage, to define exactly what they meant, so as not to leave the matter in unfathomable seas of doubt.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that for his part he doubted whether there was any difference between the words "compensation" and "consideration," but the word "compensation" might have been put in with some ulterior intention or motive. He suggested to the right hon. Gentleman, as a short cut out of the difficulty, that both the words should be dropped, and the Clause would then read exactly what was meant. The sub-Section would then read: "The Water Board shall pay each company for the transfer of their undertaking such sum as may be agreed on, etc." What was the use of importing into the Bill a word which caused uneasiness in anybody's mind, and which carried with it, by the admission of the right hon. Gentleman himself, no specific meaning?

MR. LOUGH said he thought that that would be a satisfactory compromise.

Mr. Walter Long.

There was a simplicity in the suggestion, and it improved the sense as well as the grammar of the Clause. He was quite willing to accept the hon. Member for Dundee's suggestion in place of his own Amendment.

MR. LYTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington) said he hoped that the Government would adhere to the Clause in its present form. The word "compensation" was perfectly familiar to those who had experience in this class of case. He most strongly submitted that unless there were conclusive reasons that at this stage of the Bill for the insertion of new words the Clause in its present form should be allowed to stand. This was not a very suitable tribunal to reverse the decision of the Committee upstairs.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said that the words made use of by his hon. and learned friend had inspired fears in his mind which had not been inspired by the words of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board. The word "compensation" did involve something different from the ordinary purchase price which would be paid by a buyer to a vendor. He understood from what fell from the President of the Local Government Board that he did not wish to give the vendors the full benefit of the Lands Clauses Act.

MR. LYTTELTON: All but the 10 per cent.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that the 10 per cent. was something given over and above the value of the property because it was a compulsory purchase. It was very difficult to divine the origin of this 10 per cent., but it had been given from time immemorial.

MR LYTTELTON said that it had not been the custom of recent years to give this additional 10 per cent.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES entirely concurred. But even supposing the 10 per cent. were eliminated, there remained a great deal more. There was the prospective value of the holdings of the Water

Companies in view of the increase of the population and many other attributes. One could well see that the amount which might be awarded by the arbitrators under this Clause might be altogether outside that contemplated by the Government in introducing this Bill. Surely it was the general object of the Government that a good bargain should be made for the public, and that these properties should be acquired at a fair price as a going concern; and, if so, they should use words to define their meaning, and not leave it in doubt.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that he personally did not attach importance to these words, but his hon. and learned friend the Member for Warwick did, and he spoke with great authority on the subject. He should have thought that the suggestion of the hon. Member for Dundee would have settled the difficulty; but there seemed to be a difference of view. The case had been argued with great care before the Joint Select Committee, which had the benefit of the opinion of a room full of eminent lawyers, and the Joint Select Committee unanimously decided that the word "compensation" should be inserted instead of "consideration." In these circumstances he could not take the responsibility of assenting to the restoration of the word "consideration."

Mr. LOUGH said he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment, and to move simply the omission of the words "as compensation."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 14, to leave out the words 'as compensation.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Captain NORTON asked whether one point had not been lost sight of in this matter. There was a distinct difference between "compensation" and "consideration." Compensation was given, as a rule, when the property of an individual was taken over for a public purpose; but in this instance it was not the property of an individual that was being taken over—it was a public service. Seeing that these public companies had made enormous profits out of the unearned increment of the community, he maintained that it would be unfair to fix on the community a further charge.

(4.23.) Question put.

Committee divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 611.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHn. Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Crossley, Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'm'lts
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Linc.
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Honeage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Malcolm, Ian
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.

Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord.
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Atherley-Jones, L.
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Dunn, Sir William
Fenwick, Charles
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil Wiliam
Partington, Oswald
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

MR. LOUGH said he desired to move in Clause 2, page 2, line 15, to leave out "as may be agreed on between the Board and the Company, or in default of agreement." The object of the Amendment would be to make arbitration compulsory; and it raised one of the most important questions that the Committee had to deal with. The drastic provisions of the Bill had been commended by the establishment of the Board of Arbitration; and they were told that they might fairly leave everything to that court. What would happen if a settlement were arrived at without arbitration? If the Committee would reflect for a moment, they would see that the case was not on all-fours with other cases, where a municipal authority bought up water works or other property by agreement with the vendors. The new Board was not yet in existence, and when it was formed it would have to construct machinery and make preparation for the great work that it would have to carry on. It would not proceed with small and light tasks before it reached the crisis of its existence; but would at once have to deal with the greatest work it would ever have to discharge. Something like forty millions of money would have to be spent in acquiring these undertakings; and the magnitude of the transaction was shown by the fact that all the water-works which had been bought up during the past forty or fifty years by Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Birmingham and other Corporations, only cost twelve-and-a-half millions. The present purchase would be three times that magnitude; and, according to the Clause as it stood, it would be possible for the new Board to make an agreement with the Companies without any reference at all to the Board of Arbitration. Even hon. Members opposite would agree that that would be too great an undertaking to hand over to a body without any experience. The companies had all the skill and experience which such wealthy Corporations could command. They had made every preparation. They had the most learned counsel and the most clever engineers and valuers; and the new body would come into the field when the Companies had secured all the best assistance in the market. As the Clause stood, a private bargain could be made with the Companies. He did not intend to cast any reflection on the new body; but that would be too great and too difficult a task to give it at the commencement of its career. They were inclined to facilitate the progress of the Bill as much as possible;

but there were certain points far too important to hurry over or ignore, and the Amendment raised one of them. There would be no better means of expediting the progress of the Bill than by accepting the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 15, to leave out the words 'as may be agreed on between the Board and the Company, or in default of agreement.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said that, on behalf of the Government, he could not accept an Amendment the object of which was to make it impossible for the new Water Board to come to an agreement with the Companies without going to arbitration. The hon. Gentleman said that he made no suggestion against the competency of the new Board; and yet talked all the time of the Board as if, of necessity, it was to be composed of men of no experience in municipal affairs or in business. The existence of the Bill had been known to the local governing bodies in London for a very long time. He had no doubt that they had, in many cases, made up their minds as to who they would suggest as their representatives; and it appeared to him that the new Board would be manned by men thoroughly competent as business men, and as men of experience, in every way to lay down a definite line of policy. Then the hon. Member said that the Companies would have secured all the best lawyers and engineers, and that no one would be left to serve the Water Board. He thought that that was describing the supply of legal and other skilled services in an incredible fashion. The Committee might rely on it that the Water Board would be able to command the services of men fully competent to serve them from a technical point of view. The hon. Gentleman had persistently told the Committee that the new Board would have responsible and laborious duties, and that it would have to bear the brunt of its early labours. Was it in the least likely that the Board would give the Companies a great deal more than their concerns were worth for no reason, except the reason adumbrated by the hon. Member that it would be incompetent and ignorant. The members of the Metropolitan Borough Councils had declared——

MR. LOUGH: Not in their corporate capacity.

MR. WALTER LONG: The hon. Member talked of corporate capacity. When he referred to the competency of the London County Council to deal with this matter, did he mean in its corporate capacity?

MR. LOUGH: Certainly.

MR. WALTER LONG: Yet the hon. Member who said that a Board of seventy members was too unwieldy talked of the competency of a body of 130 members. He opposed the Amendment for the reasons he had given, and also because he declined to be a party to passing condemnation on a body which was not yet in existence.

MR. HALDANE said that the right hon. Gentleman resisted the Amendment on the ground that it would be a slur on the body not yet in existence; but the right hon. Gentleman did not appear to quite appreciate the reason for the Amendment. Without casting any reflection on the new body, it would not have that wealth of assessors, surveyors, and counsel which the water companies had already retained. What the Amendment proposed was, not litigation on every occasion, but that when one of these undertakings was valued, the sanction of Sir Edward Fry, Sir Hugh Owen and Sir J. Wolfe Barry should be interposed in each case. The Amendment would give this further security and safety to the public, and unless the arbitrators sanctioned the terms in a formal award the transaction could not go through. He thought that was very desirable when forty millions of public money was about to be expended. It did not necessarily mean litigation; on the contrary, it might assist in getting rid of it; but the public interest would be safeguarded. The Amendment was a reasonable one, and only said that no agreement could be final until it was approved by the arbitrators.

Mr. GUTHRIE (Tower Hamlets, Bow) said that he thought the fight between the Water Companies and the new Board would not be at all equal. The Companies had, for the last eighteen months, been carefully preparing their case; whereas, the new Board would only have a very short time to make out its case. The only objection which could be urged to the Amendment was that of expense; but in a transaction involving a sum of forty millions, the extra cost for arbitration would be very small. He would therefore urge on the Government the desirability of reconsidering the question. The fight would be more equal before the arbitrators, and would do the Board no harm.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was very sorry that the Government could not see their way to accept the Amendment. He did not think that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill quite appreciated the position. What was desired was that the companies should be dealt with on identical terms. If there were to be two processes, one by agreement and the other by arbitration, the Companies would not be dealt with on the same basis. It seemed to him that there would be greater public confidence in the proceeding if all the matters were brought before the arbitrators. He agreed with his hon. and learned friend that it would not lead to increased litigation. Probably the first arbitration would be taken as typical, and would decide the other cases. On grounds of uniformity and economy, he very much hoped that the Government, if not at present, would at all events before the Report stage reconsider the position.

Dr. MACNAMARA said he agreed generally as to the method by which the value was to be arrived at, which was, broadly, the recommendation of the Select Committee. He would, however, support the Amendment. It was a very drastic Amendment, but the case was drastic and desperate. He would have no confidence in a body, constituted as the new body would be, entering into an agreement with the Companies; but he had every confidence in the Board of Arbitrators dealing fairly between the owners and the ratepayers. He made no suggestion against the new Board, but in a question of agreement the Companies would be bound to get the better of it. There would be four members on the Board who had no right there whatever—viz., the three Thames Conservancy representatives, and the one Lea Conservancy representative. They would represent the sellers, and he could not view with equanimity the fact that they would be parties to an agreement. He did not know whether he dare mention the mystic words, "Metropolitan Board of Works;" but he would only say that that Board, which was constituted like the present Board, broke down in financial matters of this character, and that the very case which Lord Herschell's Commission enquired into was a case of buying an undertaking. He thought with such a large Board, with new work, drawn for eighty local authorities and not the direct representatives of the people, that the wisest plan, in the interests of the ratepayers, would be not to allow agreement, but to rely on the three distinguished men in whose hands would rest the fiduciary interests of the ratepayers.

Mr. CORRIE GRANT said he did not doubt that the members of the new Board would bring to the work entrusted to them the fullest ability they possessed; but the difficulty was the question of experience. Let the Committee imagine that it had to purchase one of the water undertakings. There were a dozen matters which an inexperienced man would not find out, unless all the facts were threshed out in open Court. The public ought to have their interests fully protected. A fair price ought to be paid for the undertakings, but the public ought to be safeguarded against being induced to enter into a bargain without knowing all the facts. There would be no advantage in purchasing one undertaking by agreement if others had to be decided by arbitration, as there would, practically, have to be as much enquiry on one as on all the eight, except, perhaps, in regard to the New River Co. The detailed enquiry would not be carried on by the arbitrators themselves, but would be referred to officials; and the arbitrators would then decide between the contending parties. The arbitrators would not themselves enquire into the past profits of the Companies, when pipes were laid, and similar matters, which would be referred to experts. There would be no practical saving of time, and no practical saving of expense; and there would be a great risk that the public would have to pay a higher price for the undertakings if the matter was not approved by the arbitrators. It was essentially a matter which ought to be fought out in public. If an agreement were made behind the backs of the public it would be said that the terms were not reasonable or fair; and if it were subsequently shown that one Company got less than another all manner of difficulties would arise.

MR. JOHN BURNS said it was obvious from the discussion that the Committee only wished to be fair as between the Water Companies and the ratepayers; and that being practically agreed on, the question was how it could best be carried out. He was staggered when he found that the President of the Local Government Board was not disposed to accept the Amendment. Whenever disputants disagreed as to the value of an undertaking, the case was laid by both sides, in the light of their experience and knowledge, before an impartial tribunal. What did the rejection of the Amendment mean? It was admirably put by the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley. It would put the ratepayers' interests at a disadvantage; but it might also put the interests of the shareholders in the Water Companies at a great disadvantage. The President of the Board of Trade knew very well that there would be no officials at the disposal of the new Board; and he did not blame the water companies for not allowing their officials to be used by the new Board against themselves. That would be unreasonable to expect. On the other hand it might not be fair to the Water Companies to employ the officials of the London County Council. The only way out of the difficulty was to abolish purchase by agreement, and to let the Water Companies submit all the facts to the arbitrators. He would venture the opinion that eight out of the nine Water Companies would agree to that. He appealed to the President of the Local Government Board not to allow this new body to agree to the purchase. They were a new body without experience, and it stood to reason that they would not be able to cope with the hon. Member from Leamington or Mr. Littler, or any of the gentlemen who might represent the Water Companies. They would be as clay in the hands of the potter, and would be twisted into every shape, and if that did not happen, they would, acting on principles of economy, probably agree to purchase at a lump sum, which must be unjust either to the Water Companies or the ratepayers of London. He did not want either of those two extremes, he wanted a fair, just and equitable decision, based only on legal skill and technical knowledge—a fair decision based on a full knowledge of all the circumstances of the case. Such knowledge the Borough Councillors could not command, through no fault of their own. If the right hon. Gentleman accepted this Amendment he would receive the thanks and blessings of the Committee; if he did not, then he (Mr. Burns) was afraid they would waste another year before they got this matter through.

(5.5) **Mr. LOUGH** hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make some concession on this matter, and would be able to see his way to meeting the Committee on this Amendment.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he was very anxious to secure the progress of the Bill. He thought it was very undesirable to preclude this new body from settling these matters by agreement if they so desired, but inasmuch as in all probability they would proceed to arbitration, although he could not agree to accept the Amendment now. He was ready to reconsider the question now raised before Report. He could not go further, because it was impossible to say at present what the effect of the change proposed might be on the arbitration.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said under those circumstances he was quite content to allow his Amendment to stand over to the Report stage.

Mr. LOUGH thanked the right hon. Gentleman for this concession and begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he understood the Government was prepared to accept the Amendment he rose to move, and therefore he would move the Amendment without saying anything further.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 24, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words 'and any such notice shall state the amount of the sum to be paid, or of the water stock to be issued under the proposed agreement.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. LOUGH said if this Amendment were proceeded with, the Committee might find itself in an awkward position, because if the right hon. Gentleman finally decided to accept the Amendment that had just been debated, these words would not be required.

Mr. WALTER LONG: That would naturally follow, and the matter could be remedied on the Report stage.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3:—

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) rose to move—"In page 2, line 27, after 'may,' to insert 'in such manner as to produce within three years from the appointed day throughout the limits of supply an equalisation of water rates in proportion to the ratable value of the hereditaments supplied, or the special services rendered, as the case may be.'" He said this Amendment raised an important question, namely, the manner in which the rates were to be levied after the passage of the Bill. The Bill as it originally came before the House, practically laid down no rule.

Mr. WALTER LONG, on a point of order, submitted that this was not the proper place to move this Amendment. He submitted it should come in Clause 15, and not in this Clause.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: I think the right hon. Gentleman is right. This is not in order here. It should come in as a new Clause.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said the object of the Amendment he proposed to move was to bring to the notice of the right hon. Gentleman what appeared to be an ambiguity in the Bill. Under the Thames Conservancy Act the Water Companies had the right to appoint one member to the Thames Conservancy Board. In this Clause the rights of each Water Company were transferred to the Water Board, but nothing was said as to this particular right held by the Water Companies jointly. The whole of the Water Companies would not disappear under this Bill, because the New River Company would be left, in a truncated condition it was true, and it might claim the right to send a member to the Thames Conservancy. The same thing arose with regard to the Lee Conservancy Act, which he proposed to deal with by another Amendment at a later stage.

Amendment proposed

"In page 2, line 33, after the first 'company,' to insert 'and the right exercised by the Metropolitan Water Companies jointly of appointing one of the Thames Conservators shall be exercised by the Water Board in their stead.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG was in favour of the Amendment. He thought the right referred to should be transferred to the Water Board, but that could better be done on Clause 26, by which power was to be given to the Local Government Board by Provisional Order to arrange for the transference of all such powers to the new Board.

MR. HALDANE asked for some indication of what the action of the Local Government Board would be, because, so far as he could see, this was only a direction to the Local Government Board.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said after the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH said he thought the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Newington required some explanation. The hon. Member proposed to leave out the following words—

"Where the Company are, immediately before the appointed day, supplying water otherwise than in bulk in any parish in which they are not by the Acts relating to the Company authorised to supply water, those Acts and all public general Acts applying to the Metropolitan Water Companies shall as from that date extend and apply to that parish and the works of the Company comprised therein, as if the parish had been a parish in which the company were authorised to supply water."

So far as he could see, the words were intended to extend the Parliamentary limits of the Water Companies, if that were so he did not see the use of these words, which seemed to have been dragged in to no purpose. He would move the Amendment in order to give the right hon. Gentleman an opportunity of stating what the necessity of these words was.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, to leave out from 'and,' to end of paragraph."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG was not surprised that these words were not clear to hon. Gentlemen. They were a little obscure, but it was necessary to incorporate them in this Bill in order to legalise what was now being done by certain Water Companies. In some places Water Companies were supplying places outside their legal limits, and it was obvious that if these words were not added, great hardship would be inflicted on those places which would not be entitled to be served by the Water Board.

Mr. LOUGH: I beg leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4:—

Mr. LOUGH said they were really proceeding so fast that there were many provisions which they might regret if they did not give them more consideration. There was one expression in this Clause which was not in the Bill when it was before the Committee upstairs, and he moved the omission of the Clause, in order to raise a discussion upon it—"or other annual payments." It was not quite clear what the expression covered. When on behalf of the Water Companies those words were proposed to be introduced when the Bill was before the Committee upstairs, the Local Government Board had strongly objected. He would like to know the reason of this change of front on the part of the Government.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 4."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WALTER LONG said these words were inserted in order to cover the case of certain sums payable by the New River Company and the East London Water Company for the service of the Board.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Upon the Question, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill,"—

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON asked if they passed this Clause would the Committee be allowed to adjourn without taking anything further? Would Progress be reported now, as it was twenty-five minutes past five?

Mr. WALTER LONG: Certainly.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-nine minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 8th December, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition for Amendment of: of Clergy and Laity of Cheshire; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition against; of the Presbytery of Dundee of the United Free Church of Scotland; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES, No. 16 (1902).

Treaties between the United Kingdom and Ethiopia, and between the United Kingdom, Italy, and Ethiopia, relative to the frontiers between the Soudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea; signed at Adis Ababa, 15th May 1902 (ratifications delivered at Adis Ababa, 28th October 1902; with a map).

AFRICA No. 3 (1902).

Memoranda relating to the Uganda Railway, 1902.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE—SIR HORACE RUMBOLD'S ARTICLE IN THE "NATIONAL REVIEW."

Lord NEWTON: My Lords, I wish to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a question relating to an article recently contributed by Sir Horace Rumbold to the *National Review.* Sir Horace Rumbold is a distinguished public servant, who for more than fifty years was a member of the Diplomatic Service, and has served with distinction in various parts of the world. At the time of his retirement he was occupying the responsible and dignified post of British Ambassador at Vienna. Since his retirement, which took place a short time ago, following the example of other eminent public servants, he has been occupied in giving to the world the benefit of his experience, and has, amongst other things, recently contributed an article to the *National Review.* It will be obvious to any one who has read that article that it was written with the laudable intention of showing that at a critical period as regards this country there was, at all events, one Government in Europe which displayed a friendly attitude towards us—a fact which I venture to say was not particularly obvious to the casual observer. But this article also contained unfavourable comments upon German policy with regard to this country. Unfortunately the publication of this article coincided with the visit of the German Emperor to this country a short time ago. I use the word "unfortunately" advisedly, because Sir Horace Rumbold himself was in no way responsible for the coincidence. The article was written some time previously, and the fact that it appeared at the same time as the German Emperor visited this country was due to the enterprise which characterises able editors who are well aware by experience of what is the most favourable opportunity to put their literary wares upon the market. The result of this was that Sir Horace Rumbold's views as regarded Germany were seized upon with great avidity by the more sensational portion of the Press. His article obtained a notoriety which otherwise it possibly would not have obtained; and finally it became the subject of a Question in another place. I think anybody who read this article would come to the conclusion that, although it might be marked by indiscretion—an error for which, I believe, Sir Horace Rumbold has already amply apologised—there was no further harm in it, and it only stated facts that are patent to everyone interested in foreign policy. It would be difficult for the most exacting person to discover in this article any real breach of trust or confidence.

In the answer which was given on behalf of the Foreign Office the impression was produced, or, at all events, the answer was capable of the construction, that Sir Horace Rumbold had been guilty of a grave breach of trust which

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

rendered him liable to severe pains and penalties for having disclosed official secrets. From my own experience I should say the crime of disclosing official secrets was very difficult of accomplishment. I have myself been for some years in the Diplomatic Service, and I do not mind venturing on the rather bold assertion that such things as official secrets practically do not exist. I really believe that short of selling a cipher, or other definite action of that kind, it would be extremely difficult for the most ill-intentioned person to offend against the Official Secrets Act. The despatch boxes which follow the Foreign Secretary wherever he goes, and which are looked upon as the repositories of earth-quaking mysteries, very often contain little that the outside world does not know. The same thing applies to despatches sent to the uttermost ends of the earth; there is very little in those despatches that does not appear a few hours afterwards in the public newspapers. Whether official secrets exist or not, nobody likes to be charged with an offence, even though it be an imaginary offence. Sir Horace Rumbold may be an over-sensitive person, and may have placed a totally wrong construction on the answer which was returned in the House of Commons. Some people may possibly think that he would have been better advised if the matter had been allowed to remain where it stood. On the other hand, I would ask your Lordships to consider that a man far advanced in years, the whole of whose life practically has been passed in the public service, who, amongst other things, has attained the dignity of a Privy Councillor, cannot but be deeply pained at any sort of suggestion that he has acted in a dishonourable manner, or has in any way betrayed a trust. I, therefore, appeal to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to explain publicly that there is no imputation of this nature upon Sir Horace Rumbold.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, the manner in which His Majesty's Government regard this subject is clearly, and, I think, sufficiently described in the statement which was made by my noble friend and colleague Lord Cranborne on November 13 last.† Lord Cranborne on that occasion explained that in our view the publication by a former representative of the Crown of reminiscences relating to recent events which had come within the writer's notice in the course of his official duties was not permitted without the previous consent of the Secretary of State; and it was stated that such publication, without that consent, was, in our view, reprehensible. I venture to think that there are few people who will dispute the reasonableness of that contention. Sir Horace Rumbold published two works—a book and a magazine article. I believe the House of Commons Question was, in appearance at all events, directed mainly to the question of the book. But the article attracted so much attention that obviously no statement could be made with reference to the one without pointing also to the other, and I observe that in the course of his remarks my noble friend Lord Newton referred almost entirely to the contents of Sir Horace Rumbold's article. Now, my noble friend told your Lordships that the contents of the article were, in his opinion, of a very nnocuous description. I should have agreed with him if he had said that of the book, but I am afraid I cannot go the length of agreeing with him as far as the article is concerned.

The article contained an account of a very interesting and important conversation upon an official matter which took place between the writer and the Emperor of Austria. It also contained an account of communications which had passed between the writer and the Austro-Hungarian Government upon a subject of great importance and great delicacy, in which the name of Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria was introduced. Now, when Sir Horace Rumbold reported these matters, as he did, to the Foreign Office, in official despatches, he marked both of those despatches "confidential," and I am able to tell your Lordships that we should certainly never have dreamt of publishing despatches of that description without first obtaining the concurrence of the Austro-Hungarian Government; and it seems

Lord Newton.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxiv., 871.

to me to follow, *a fortiori*, that if the consent of the Austro-Hungarian Government was necessary for such publication, Sir Horace Rumbold should have applied to the Foreign Office for the consent of that Department before publishing on his own account inthis country. I dare say my noble friend has observed that one of the consequences of this publication was an interpellation—I rather think there were two—in the Reichsrath, of a somewhat embarrassing character, addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Government. Well, I certainly say that that publication was an indiscreet and, from our point of view, reprehensible publication. But, on the other hand, I gladly respond to the invitation of my noble friend, and add that we do not suggest, and never have suggested, that in committing this indiscretion Sir Horace Rumbold was guilty of a betrayal of trust, or, indeed, actuated by any unworthy motives. I think my noble friend was justified in appealing to Sir Horace Rumbold's long and distinguished career as a sufficient guarantee that he would have been incapable of any conduct of the kind. I also readily accept the assurance which was given to us by my noble friend—and it has also been given to us by Sir Horace Rumbold—that he was in no way responsible for the accident owing to which the publication of this article took place at a particular and a most inopportune and unfortunate moment. The only other matter to which the noble Lord referred was the concluding passage in my noble friend Lord Cranborne's statement, in which something was said of the steps His Majesty's Government were likely to take in order to mark their disapproval of Sir Horace Rumbold's conduct, and I must say my noble friend seems to have read into that statement a great deal more than it actually contained.

LORD NEWTON: Sir Horace Rumbold read into it.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Well, Sir Horace Rumbold read into it a great deal more than it contained. What was the statement? The statement was simply this, that His Majesty's Government were considering what steps they should take in order to make clear the manner in which they regarded the subject. I find in that no imputation on Sir Horace Rumbold. The words were simple words and all that they indicated, and were intended to indicate, was that, as there was evidently in the mind of Sir Horace Rumbold, and very possibly in the minds of others, some misconception as to the limits within which these publications were to be permitted, we should take care to remove that doubt. I will tell my noble friend how we propose to do so, and I do not think that he will complain of us. We propose, in the next issue of the Foreign Office List, to publish a new regulation affecting the Diplomatic Service, and we shall make it perfectly clear that members of that service must not, without the express permission of the Secretary of State, publish observations on, or accounts of their experience in the countries in which they are, or have been, officially employed, nor any information obtained by them in their official capacity; and we shall add—and I think that this is very important—that, in our view, this obligation of secrecy in regard to official experience and information continues equally after their retirement from the service. That will I hope, make it abundantly clear to all concerned that these acts of indiscretion must not be repeated, and I am quite convinced that when it is so made clear the regulation will be respected, and honourably observed.

LORD NEWTON: I beg to thank the noble Marquess or his answer, but there are two points which I should like to comment upon. First, as to the word "confidential." I submit that it does not, in British diplomacy, bear the interpretation placed upon it by the outside world. As everybody knows, representatives abroad are eternally writing to the Foreign Office, and it is impossible to read all they write. My experience is that, unless documents are marked "confidential," most of them reach the pigeon-hole and are never heard of again. As to the second point, it seems to me that the noble Marquess proposes to add largely to the labours of the Foreign Office, because, if I interpret his answer correctly, he is going to establish a Press censorship in that already overworked Department. Suppose I propose to write my reminiscences, would it be necessary to submit what I write to the Foreign Office to go over and carefully study all that I propose to put down, any trivialities? If so, I cannot help thinking that the noble Marquess is embarking on a large undertaking. Considering the large number of persons who have been employed in some capacity or other, if they all take it into their heads to publish their reminiscences, this duty would probably be found to require a large addition to the staff of the Department.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I am afraid that if this discussion continues a great many of our idols will be broken for us. The noble Lord has told us that the contents of our little red boxes, which are so carefully locked, are well known to the man in the street. He went on to tell us that confidential despatches rarely, if ever, contain any confidential matter.

LORD NEWTON: Only sometimes.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I am afraid we can hardly admit that. As to the noble Lord's last point, I am not at all intimidated by the prospect he holds out. It is quite clear that in the case of ordinary personal reminiscences —"trivialities," as my noble friend calls them—there would be no question of revision; but where there is debatable ground, and where the information contained—where its revelation—was likely to be of importance, in all such cases I feel convinced that the members of the Diplomatic Service would be the first in all doubtful cases to consult with the Foreign Office and honourably abide by the advice which might be given to them.

*LORD STANMORE: I should like just to remind the noble Lord who put this question that the rule now proposed by the noble Marquess is no new rule. It has been understood for generations that no public servant, serving under the Foreign Office, and receiving confidential communications from foreign Governments or Ministers, has any right whatever to publish any part of any information he may happen to possess, whether in or out of office, without the permission of the Sovereign, signified through one of the Secretaries of State.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (the DUKE of DEVONSHIRE): In moving the adjournment of the House, it may be convenient to give notice that, in the event of the Committee on the Education Bill, as probably it may happen, not being finished to-morrow, we propose, as I think it is generally understood, that we should continue the discussion on the next day; and I should like further to suggest, in order to give plenty of time to finish, if possible, the discussion on that day, that it might be convenient to meet earlier on Wednesday —say at three or four o'clock. The exact hour will be settled when we adjourn to-morrow.

House adjourned at five minutes before Five o'clock till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 8th December, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

PETITIONS.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.

Petition from Beccles, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VIVISECTION.

Petition from Teignmouth, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AFRICA (No. 5, 1902).

Copy presented, of Memoranda relating to the Uganda Railway, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 16, 1902).

Copy presented, of Treatise between the United Kingdom and Ethiopia, and between the United Kingdom, Italy, and

Ethiopia relative to the frontiers between the Soudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea [signed at Adis Ababa, 15th May, 1902. Ratifications delivered at Adis Ababa, 28th October, 1902], with a map [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2919 and 2920 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UGANDA RAILWAY [GRANT].

Committee to consider of issuing a further sum out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom for the purposes of the Uganda Railway (King's Recommendation signified), tomorrow.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Island of Lewis—House Acommodatiocn.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate if he will grant a Return of the number of houses in the Island of Lewis where the dwelling-room of the occupier is only separated from the cattle by a low partition or rail.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) According to the Census of 1901 the number of separate families in the rural districts of Lewis was 4,846, and the number of inhabited houses 4,790. There were eighty-five uninhabited houses, and forty-seven building. Of the inhabited houses the great majority is of the type described in the Question. Under the circumstances it is not considered that a separate Return would serve any useful purpose.

Roads and Bridges in Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland has yet authorised the Western District Committee of the county of Ross and Cromarty to expend the sum of £40 out of the Western Districts' share of the equivalent grant for the current year upon the maintenance and repair of footpaths and foot bridges.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) No application in this matter has reached the Secretary for Scotland, and consequently no authority has been given.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what progress has been made with the construction of the proposed road between the townships of Achnahaird and Altaudhu, Ross-shire.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) On 5th instant the Congested Districts Board received from the County Clerk a letter stating that the County Council had resolved to accept a tender for the construction of this road on certain matters being approved by the Congested Districts Board. The decision of the Board will be given in due course.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate whether the Congested Districts Board have received a revised estimate of the cost of construction of the Cromore-Gravir Road, Island of Lewis; and will he state whether the Board are now prepared to provide a grant such as will enable the local authorities to proceed with the construction of the road.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that they have not yet received the revised scheme the hon. Member alludes to.

Imports of Canadian Cattle—Slaughtering Regulations.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will lay upon the Table of the House communications that have passed between himself and the Canadian Government respecting the extension of the time limit for the slaughtering of Canadian cattle at landing ports in this country.

(*Answered by Mr. Hanbury.*) I can give no promise on this point until the correspondence is completed.

Police Provision, in the Metropolis.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that three burglaries have been committed on the same premises in the City Road within two years; and whether steps have been taken to strengthen the police protection in that street.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I understand that it is the fact that certain premises in the City Road have been broken into, or have been the object of attempts, on four occasions. In two cases the criminals were arrested with the property in their possession and were convicted. In a third case they were found concealing themselves in the area, and were prosecuted and convicted. In the fourth case no arrest was made. I am advised that the division in which the City Road is situated is adequately provided with constables, and I do not think that the above facts prove the contrary. It would be impossible to increase the police force to such an extent as to prevent all housebreaking in any given spot.

Factory Acts—Spirit Bottling Establishments.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing that although under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, employers engaged in the bottling of beer are entitled, in pursuance of the special exception under Section 49, to employ women on overtime, no such provision is made in favour of employers when engaged in the bottling of spirits; and, in view of the effect of this omission when there is pressure of bottling business in spirit trades, will he consider the expediency of taking such steps as may be necessary to include bottling of spirits in the special exception list under the Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I have not received any application from the spirit trade for the grant of overtime for women engaged in bottling spirits, and I have no information leading me to think that any such special exception from the provisions of the Factory Act is required. If I should receive any application from the trade generally I would give it careful consideration; but it should be understood that the multiplication of these exceptions is very undesirable, and they will be given only if a clear case of necessity can be shown.

Police-Constable William Drake, of Devonport.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will see that further consideration is given to the case of ex-Police Constable William Drake, who met with an accident in the execution of his duty as a water policeman at Devonport in 1898, and was invalided with a small gratuity in lieu of a pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The case was dealt with in the year 1900 by my predecessor in office under the provisions of The Police Act, 1890. I have inquired into it and find that the Chief Surgeon of the Metropolitan Police has advised that no connection has been established between the slight injury on duty sustained by the ex-police-constable and the disease which caused him to be returned as unfit for further service. In these circumstances a pension could not be granted. I may add that the gratuity awarded was the maximum authorised by the Act.

Education Bill—Rating of Provided and Non-provided Schools.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the fact that in consequence of Section 3 of The Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, it will follow that under the new Education Bill public elementary schools founded by the new local education authority will be rated for local purposes, whilst those not so provided will be exempt from such rating; and whether he will take steps to remove the inequality which will thus be caused between one township and another in the same union, as the township with non-provided schools will escape that portion of their assessment to the common fund.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Under Section 3 of The Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, no person can be assessed or rated to any local rate in respect of lands or buildings used exclusively or mainly as schoolrooms, offices, or playground of a voluntary school, except to the extent of profits derived from any letting. This exemption does not apply in the case of a school provided by a School Board, and it will not apply to a school provided by a local education authority under the Education Bill. That Bill does not alter the law on the subject. It could only be dealt with by an Act of Parliament, and I could not give any promise to introduce legislation with regard to it.

Education Bill—Audits.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has yet considered the arrangements to be made under the Education Bill for the audit of the accounts of the managers and of the education authorities; whether it is proposed that a single audit should be held for counties by the same auditors who audit the rest of the County Council accounts, or whether these audits will be held by the auditors who now audit School Board accounts; where the audits of managers' accounts will take place, and what notices of the audit will be published, and whether notices will be affixed on school doors as at present; whether the Local Government Board will issue an Order prescribing the form of accounts of local education authorities in counties under The Local Government Act, 1888; and whether it is intended that a similar Order shall be applied to the accounts of a Borough Council under Clause 19 (3) of the Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The accounts referred to in the Question will not have to be audited until after the close of the financial year following the appointed day. I am not at present in a position to state precisely what arrangements will be made in this matter, but in considering them I will bear in mind the points to which the right hon. Baronet draws attention.

Belfast Post Office—Despatch of Telegrams.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster General whether the rule providing that the despatch of public telegrams shall be strictly in turn in accordance with the time at which they are handed in by the public has been rescinded or amended; whether the further instructions contained in Post Office Circular 293, dated 25th September, 1900, have also been rescinded; and, if not, will he explain why the telegraph superintendent at the Belfast Office has instructed the assistant superintendents to inform the staff that the telegrams are not to be sent in code turn; and will he have instructions given the Belfast staff for their guidance in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The rule providing that the despatch of telegrams shall be strictly in accordance with the time at which they are handed in has been neither rescinded nor amended, nor has the caution against favour and priority given in the Post Office Circular of the 25th September, 1900, been withdrawn. I cannot find that any instructions to the contrary have been given at Belfast or elsewhere.

Belfast Post Office—Employment of Several Members of one Family.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Postmaster General, in view of the general rule of the service that two or more members of the same family should not be employed in the same office, whether he will explain why in the Belfast telegraph office this is violated; and whether he will take steps to have the rule carried out in that office.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I find that the relaxation of the usual practice is mainly due to the fact that the majority of vacancies at Belfast are filled by open competitive examination and that when a candidate enters the service under that system inquiry is not always made whether any relatives are already employed in the same office.

Birr (King's County) Post Office.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that in the erection of a new post office at Birr, King's County, the adjoining premises of Mr. Morrison have been injured; and if steps will be taken to make good the injury caused.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain*). I am informed by the Board of Public Works, which is the Department responsible for building the new post office at Birr, that the damage complained of by Mr. Morrison has been the subject of arbitration between him and the contractor who is erecting the new building; and that an award has been given imposing upon the contractor the execution of certain specific works, which will be duly carried out as speedily as possible.

Parcels Post with America.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the case of a parcel sent by the new American Parcel Post, the true duty payable on which was 33s. 9d., while the Post Office accepted as security for this sum a deposit of 4s., or less than one-eighth of the amount payable; and will he consider the advisability of increasing the sum required to be deposited to guard against the risk of the consignee not being discoverable when the balance has to be collected.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) My attention has been called to the case referred to. The senders of parcels for the United States undertake in writing to pay the Customs duty on demand; and I see no reason to suppose that any appreciable loss is likely to be incurred under the present system, which appears on the whole to be working quite smoothly. In nearly one-half of the whole number of cases the deposit is sufficient to cover the total charge for Customs duty.

Postal Circulation of Betting and Lottery Circulars.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): To ask the Postmaster General whether he can see his way to prosecute senders of betting and lottery circulars in closed envelopes, if persons in official positions certify or state on oath that they have so received them.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The sending of lottery circulars through the post is not an offence against Post Office Regulations but against the Lottery Acts. The Postmaster General is not the proper person to enforce the provisions of the Lottery Acts, but I shall, of course, be happy to give any assistance in my power to the proper authorities in any action which they may think it right to take. As to betting circulars, I am advised that I have not at present any authority to stop them.

COLONEL WELBY: To ask the Postmaster General whether, to prevent instituting inquiries into the contents of closed letters, he will issue a regulation requiring the name and address of those presenting letters for repayment, as in the case of those transmitting money by post office order.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The course which the hon. and gallant Member advocates is already followed.

Education Bill—Bentham (Yorkshire) Endowments.

MR. HENRY WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will state what will become, under the provisions of the Education Bill, of the endowments at Bentham, in the West Riding, which are used in part for the support of the three elementary schools of the township and in part for the support of the Bentham Grammar School, all being managed under the same Charity Commissioners' scheme and by the same Board of Governors.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) I think it would be premature to answer a Question of this nature, on which the Board of Education may have to adjudicate officially if, and when, it arises.

Westmeath Hunt—Conduct of Police.

MR. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the police in the County Westmeath are visiting the farmers in that county who object to certain persons hunting over their land, and taking their names and addresses, and that Sergeant M'Donnell and another constable, on the 13th November, in the neighbourhood of Streamstown, threatened one of the farmers there who had poisoned his land; and will he say what authority they had for their action; and will he give directions to the constabulary to cease this practice.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Question has reference, apparently, to some inquiries made by the sergeant named in the ordinary discharge of his duty, with the view of ascertaining whether intimidation had been used by a prominent member of a local organisation in the endeavour to prevent hunting. There is no foundation, otherwise, for the statements in the Question.

Rathcormac Gaelic Tournament.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many policemen attended the Gaelic Tournament at Rathcormac on the 9th of November without paying for admission; on how many occasions have disturbances arisen out of meetings for Gaelic sports held in the town since their inception; and whether he will explain on what authority the police claim a right to attend these sports without payment, when a charge is made for admission.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) A head constable and ten men. No disturbances have hitherto taken place at sports held at Rathcormac. When the police attend race meetings and sports they do so with the object of preventing disorder. Their attendance on such occasions is almost invariably desired by the promoters, and it is the practice on such occasions to exempt them from payment of the entrance fees.

Irish Land Commission—Separate Certificates of Valuation.

MR. WOOD (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in a number of cases to fix fair rents in the Land Commission Court, delay is caused by the rule of court requiring separate certificates of valuation; and, seeing that a valuator is sent from the General Valuation Office only once a year to inspect and separate the valuations, and in view of the delay occasioned thereby in fixing a fair rent by the court, he will take steps to have a valuator sent down once a month.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Land Commission cannot comply with the provisions of Section 55 of the Local Government Act, 1898, when fixing a judicial rent, unless the certificate in question for the holding is produced. At the present moment there are comparatively few cases awaiting decision by the Sub-Commissions through absence of these certificates, which in many instances require revision by reason of change of boundaries, etc. In the majority of these cases revised certificates have recently been received. In the remaining cases the Commissioners have communicated with the Commissioner of Valuation with a view to a revision. Any delay that is occasioned on the grounds stated is due to the fact that the parties have postponed applying for the revision of the valuation until after their notices to have fair rents fixed have been served. The Commissioner of Valuation has no power to revise valuations except annually.

Steam Trawling on Irish Coasts.

MR. WOOD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to complaints of the fishermen and others on the Ardglass shore of the destruction of spawn by steam trawlers coming within the three mile area; and will he consider the advisability of introducing a Bill to increase the limit to seven miles.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No such complaints have recently been received. It is not proposed to extend the limit within which steam trawling may now be prohibited.

Irish Agriculture—Glasnevin Model Farm.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that for the last two years a number of experiments have been carried on at the Glasnevin Model Farm, some of which are of great importance to Irish agriculture; and whether, seeing that such experiments are conducted at the public expense, he will request the Department of Agriculture to publish the results of those experiments in such a manner that they may reach the farmers in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The results of the experiments conducted at

Glasnevin in 1901 have already been published in the Journal issued by the Department, and also in the form of a pamphlet, which has been extensively circulated amongst farmers and local bodies and organisations. The results of the experiments carried out in 1902 will be circulated, if of value, in a similar manner.

Scarva (Down) Police Provision.

Mr. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a statement has been made from the Bench by the local magistrates with reference to the suggestion that a police barracks should again be established at Scarva, County Down; will he state whether the local Constabulary will be asked for a confidential report as to the identity of the organisers of disturbances in that district; and what steps it is intended to take to protect the lives and property of the Roman Catholics of the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) A statement was made by the local magistrates to the effect mentioned. The sub-district of Gilford, in which Scarva is situated, is remarkably peaceable, and there has been no outrage near the latter place since the police barrack was disestablished. There are three other barracks within a radius of three miles. Ample protection will be afforded to the lives and property of all persons in the locality.

Shanghai—Withdrawal of International Troops.

Mr. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether arrangements have been concluded for the complete and simultaneous withdrawal of the troops of all nations from Shanghai and the Yangtsze Valley at an early date; and whether the assurance given by China in February, 1898, to Great Britain that she will never alienate any territory in the provinces adjoining the Yangtsze to any other Power, whether under lease, mortgage, or any other designation, still holds good in letter and fact.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The Japanese troops have already been withdrawn and the British contingent is under orders to leave on the 20th instant. His Majesty's Government are informed that the German force will also leave by that date, or, failing this, early in January. The French troops will leave on the 22nd of December. The British Commandant reports that the German and French Commandants will as a temporary measure leave behind certain details for the purpose of winding up business. The British Commandant has reserved the same right if necessary. As regards the second part of my hon. friend's Question, the assurances given by the Chinese Government to His Majesty's Government on 11th February, 1898, with regard to the non-alienation to any other Power of territory in the Yangtsze region remain fully binding.

Crimean War and Indian Mutiny—Present Recipients of Pensions.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War can he state the number of non-commissioned officers and of privates respectively who have served in the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny receiving pensions for such service at the present time, and the total amount received by them.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The number of men drawing special campaign pensions was on 30th September, 3,097, and the total received by them amounted to £41,856 a year. These figures do not include men drawing ordinary pensions, who may have served in the Crimea and Indian Mutiny, and whom it would be impossible to trace without going laboriously through all the records.

Average Annual Cost of Various Arms.

Mr. PIRIE: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the average annual cost to the public of each private soldier in the Line on a peace footing, including in such cost, pay, deferred pay, gratuities and allowances, travelling expenses, outfit, uniform, and equipment, maintenance, rations, fire and light, but exclusive of interest on the cost of barrack and manœuvring accommodation; what is such average annual cost in the case of the private soldier in the Militia, and what of each individual Volunteer; and whether, in view of the higher degree of efficiency now expected from Volunteers, an increased grant is in contemplation by His Majesty's Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) As regards the first part of the Question, the hon. Member will find the information he requires in the reply given to a similar Question put by the right hon. Member for Exeter on the 7th ultimo.† As regards the Militia and Volunteers, the figures there given included the cost of the permanent staff employed in training them; if this item be omitted the totals would be less by £6 and £1 10s. 6d. respectively. Considerable increases in the camp allowances were made last year to meet the additional training. No general increase is in contemplation.

Volunteer Statistics.

MR. PIRIE: To ask the Secretary of State for War will he state the number of the Volunteer recruits during the twelve months ending 31st October last, and of the Volunteers resigning or struck off the rolls during the same period.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Returns giving the details required are only received quarterly, and the information will not therefore be available until after the 31st December.

Billeting at Winchester.

MR. MYERS (Winchester): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the increase of billeting in the city of Winchester during the last few years; and whether, in view of its effect on the licensed victuallers, he will consider the advisability of increasing the billeting allowances or establishing a rest camp outside the city.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) My attention has been drawn to this matter and the whole question is at present receiving careful consideration.

South African War—Medals for Garrison Artillery.

SIR GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the medal granted under Army Order 32, of 1902, to Militia units which served in Gibraltar, Malta, and Egypt during the war in South Africa, will be extended to the Officers of the Royal Garrison Artillery Militia who volunteered and were attached to Royal Garrison Artillery in Malta, having regard to the fact that officers who were employed with their own units, more especially the adjutants and the permanent staff who are Regulars, received the medal.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The grant of the medal was confined by the Army Order to Militia units which volunteered and went out, and I fear it cannot be given to individual Militiamen.

Afghanistan—Consignments of Armaments from Germany and England.

SIR LEWIS M'IVER (Edinburgh, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he can explain why supplies of warlike stores for Cabul, ordered by the late Amir and forwarded by his agent in London, have been detained for many months at Peshawur, while similar goods from Krupp's firm in Germany, including heavy guns, have been allowed to be sent on to Cabul.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) Permission to import the Krupp guns in question was given to the late Amir by the Government of India in May, 1901, at His Highness's request. These munitions of war are therefore not on the same footing as those ordered elsewhere. As to the latter, the Amir is in correspondence with the Government of India.

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Cost of Troops now in South Africa.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the estimated cost per week of the forces employed in South Africa.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The total cost of the forces now in South Africa may be taken at £150,000 a week, but the bulk of this would be incurred if the troops were at home. If the hon. Member alludes to the extra cost occasioned by the increased garrison now in South Africa, it may be put at about £60,000 a week, but further economies are in contemplation.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxiv., 385.

Cape Parliament—Charges by Mr. Merriman against British Officers.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Report called for in reference to the charges made in the Cape Parliament on the 28th of August has now been received: and, if so, will it be published; are the cases being investigated; and, if so, by whom; and will he make a statement to the House on the subject.

MR. BRODRICK: The Report has not yet been received. I cannot give any promise of publication till I receive it, which I expect will be some time this month.

Martial Law—Mr. Schœman's Case.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the Report of a Select Committee of the Cape House of Assembly in the case of Mr. J. H. Schœman, a member of that House, with reference to his trial under martial law and to his sentence of imprisonment with hard labour for six months and a fine of £500 on three charges, of which the military court found him guilty of two; and whether, in view of the Report of the Select Committee that Mr. Schœman was innocent, and the recommendation that the sentence passed upon Mr. Schœman should be reversed, the Government will take steps to restore the sum of £500 which Mr. Schœman was fined.

MR. BRODRICK: The information at my disposal is insufficient to enable me to reply to the points raised without reference to South Africa. A letter has accordingly been despatched to the General Officer Commanding Cape Colony.

MR. PIRIE: Has the right hon. Gentleman seen the Report of the Special Committee of the Cape Assembly on this matter?

MR. BRODRICK: This is not one of the matters reported on by the Commission, and I shall have to make further inquiry.

Irish Remount Scandal—The Studdert Case.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can explain the course pursued in the prosecution of Major Studdert and his sons; and what steps he proposes to take on account of the refusal of the Grand Jury at the Munster Assizes to find a true Bill, for reasons concerning the evidence of Colonel St. Quentin given by the Grand Jury in writing.

MR. BRODRICK: I do not propose to take any further steps in this matter. The other points will be taken up by my right hon. friend the Attorney General for Ireland, in replying to the Question standing in the name of the hon. Member for South Leitrim.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Do I understand that the Government, thinking this man to be guilty, will take no further steps of any kind?

MR. BRODRICK: I think the reply of my right hon. friend will deal with that Question.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can explain why Colonel St. Quentin was not produced by the Crown before the Grand Jury at the Munster Winter Assizes in the Studdert Remount Case; and whether it is proposed to grant any compensation to the defendants for being subjected to proceedings.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): As I had charge of this prosecution, my right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. It is almost impossible in reply to a Question to state with such fulness as to be intelligible the several considerations which, in accordance with well established principles of law and unbroken precedent, and the express provisions of the Irish statutes now in force (56 Geo. III, ch. 87, 1 and 2 Vic.—37), required that the Crown should not send Colonel St. Quentin before the Grand Jury as a witness in the Studdert case; so far, however, as they can be condensed into an answer, I may state they were as follows: Colonel St. Quentin was a most important, if not the most important, witness for the defence. He had been examined on behalf of the accused at the preliminary magisterial investigations. His evidence, and his evidence alone, was directed to establish an excuse, or kind of plea in confession and avoidance for the accused, to the effect that though the contract under which the accused was employed as purchasing agent was contained in written documents, a secret, not contemporaneous, arrangement or understanding had been come to between him and Colonel St. Quentin, never disclosed to the common principals, whereby Major Studdert was authorised to purchase horses from his sons, under assumed names, and to falsely represent to his principals that these counterfeited persons were independent, *bonâ fide* dealers. To have satisfied the desire of the Grand Jury (which apparently was not to confine themselves to their proper functions, but—to use their own words—to thoroughly investigate the case) and send one of the principal witnesses for the defence before them would, in effect, have been to have consented to transfer the hearing of this issue in the cause from the Public Court to the Grand Jury Room, and to have enabled the Grand Jury to decide it upon its merits, in secret, behind the back of the parties, without affording to the Crown any opportunity of cross-examining Colonel St. Quentin, or of pointing out the manifold contradictions, inaccuracies and other defects in his evidence which, according to their contention, rendered it unreliable, or of insisting on its insufficiency in law or fact to sustain the defence sought to be based upon it. Such a course would have been contrary to law, have been inconsistent with every principle of justice, and been of most mischievous example. I shall be only too pleased, should the occasion offer, to call attention in this House to the nature of Colonel St. Quentin's testimony, and to justify the action of the Crown in reference to him in every particular. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

MR. TULLY: Why were not the English culprits prosecuted?

* SIR CHARLES DILKE: Has it been considered if a prosecution for conspiracy would lie against the Studderts and Colonel St. Quentin?

MR. ATKINSON. That particular point has not been specifically considered, but I think it right to say, however, that as far as the evidence has been laid before me—and I am thoroughly accquainted with it—I see no reason to suppose that Colonel St. Quentin's action was criminal. I rather think that he was befooled and practised upon.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Has he incurred any civil liability?

MR. ATKINSON: I decline to give any answer to that.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Are all proceedings in this case to be abandoned?

MR. ATKINSON: There is no precedent, in modern times, for going on with proceedings after a Bill has been thrown out.

Indian Army Colonels' Promotions.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that colonels in the Indian Army are on the same list as colonels in the British Army and are promoted major generals under the new Warrant of 1901, he will explain why the latter have been antedated to 1900, thus superseding the former by three years, their promotion having been stopped since October, 1900.

MR. BRODRICK: The major-generals of the British service promoted since 1st January, 1902, on which date the new Warrant came into force, have been promoted either for distinguished war service, or on selection for appointments which have been decided upon as carrying major-general's rank. None of the latter promotions have been antedated. The delay in promoting colonels of the Indian service has been caused by the difficulty which has been experienced in settling what appointments in India should carry major-general's rank, so as to give Indian service officers their due share of advancement, but the promotions will shortly be gazetted. It is a mistake to suppose that the promotion of colonels of the Indian service under the old Warrant was stopped before the 1st January, 1901.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that in the case of six distinguished Indian officers the fact that the old Warrant ceased to operate before the new one was brought into operation has deprived them of their promotion?

MR. BRODRICK was understood to reply that that was not clearly established.

1st and 2nd Army Corps.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many men were required to complete the establishment of the 1st and 2nd Army Corps respectively on 1st November, as shown by the Returns in the office of the Inspector General of Recruiting, as regards regulars—infantry, cavalry, and other branches—militia, and efficient volunteers.

MR. BRODRICK: This information cannot at present be given, for the reasons stated in the reply to the Question put by the hon. Member for the South Molton Division of Devonshire on the 25th ultimo, to which the hon. Member is requested to refer.†

MR. PIRIE: But surely the recruiting officers could supply that?

Sandhurst Cadets.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can explain why 2s. a day is charged to Sandhurst cadets for extra messing in addition to 3s. day allowed by the public, seeing that the total cost of messing for Naval cadets is 2s. 3d. a day; and whether he can arrange that Sandhurst cadets shall not be left without food from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MR. BRODRICK: The first part of the Question has already been fully dealt with in my reply to the Question put by the hon. Member on this subject on the 2nd instant.† As regards the last part of the Question arrangements are being made for the provision of additional light refreshments next term.

Ex-Sergeant Leonard.

MR. BUTCHER (York): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that ex-Sergeant Leonard was not called as a witness at the recent inquiry in York, he will consider the propriety of instituting a further inquiry into the circumstances of this case, and the allegations contained in his letter to the Secretary of State for War, at which inquiry ex-Sergeant Leonard will have the opportunity of giving evidence.

MR. BRODRICK: The military authorities are anxious to make full inquiry into all cases where a grievance is established, and as I have already stated to the House, the general officer commanding made a very full inquiry into the circumstances of the Provisional Cavalry Regiment. Had Sergeant Leonard appealed to the General, which he failed to do, he would no doubt have been called, but the statements made by him were brought to the General's notice, and the Commander-in-Chief has fully satisfied himself as to the position.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the Government consider the propriety of calling this man before the Royal Commission now sitting?

[No answer was returned.]

Officers' Pay.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet decided to introduce an improved scale of pay for officers in His Majesty's Army; and, if so, will he say when the new regulations on the subject are likely to be issued.

MR. BRODRICK: There is no intention of introducing an improved scale of pay for officers. As I have already explained to the House, efforts are being made to reduce officers' expenses, but I cannot hold hopes of any general increase of emoluments.

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† See preceding volume, page 379.

† See preceding volume, page 917.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Will the right hon. gentleman consider the question of the payment of band and mess expenses?

MR. BRODRICK: That is being considered with a view to some relief.

Discharges of Government Workmen.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, considering the number of workpeople that have been dismissed through slackness of work, and the number of discharges that are imminent in certain Government Departments, he will consider the advisability of putting the men in certain trades on short time, of suspending overtime wherever worked, and generally to adapt Government work to spreading employment, as far as is consistent with public necessity and efficiency, over the largest number in public employment.

MR. BRODRICK: The whole question is being dealt with so as to give the least inconvenience possible. But, I fear, to put a number of men on short time, unless there was a reasonable chance of their returning to full time, would merely spread the hardship over a larger number of men than would otherwise be affected. Further, the departments would run a great risk of losing the best men, who could find full time work elsewhere. As regards suspending overtime, will the hon. Member kindly refer to my reply to a question put on this subject by the hon Member for Woolwich on the 26th ultimo.†

MR. JOHN BURNS: Will the right hon. Gentleman suggest to the contractors that it would be advisable, in case of public necessity, to do the same?

MR. BRODRICK: I do not know whether I can do anything in that direction, but I shall be only too glad to take any occasion to make the suggestion.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the serious advisability of adopting the suggestion contained in the question of the hon. Member for Battersea during the winter months? The custom has been adopted in the North of England yards, without any loss of the best workmen following.

MR. BRODRICK: I have given careful consideration to it, and, as far as I can ascertain, the cases in which a large number of men has been put on short time are usually those in which there is an expectation that full time will be resumed. A large number of men has been taken on for the war, and it would be a cruel kindness to put them on short time when there is no hope of bringing them back on full time.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Is not the scarcity of employment aggravated by the wholesale importation of pauper aliens?

*LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can arrange that the discharges at Woolwich Arsenal, in order to reduce the complement to the normal number employed before the war, can be made at the end of the financial year, so as to avoid a large number of men being unemployed during the winter months.

MR. BRODRICK: It has already been decided that notice will be given that the discharges necessary will be effected on the 1st April, and that notice will be given to the men concerned as early as possible. Every facility will be given them to obtain employment elsewhere.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD: Will there be no discharges until the 1st April?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot say there will be none, but the main discharges will not take place till the beginning of the new financial year.

2nd Provisional Regiment of Hussars.

LORD CECIL MANNERS (Leicestershire, Melton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that an officer whose service up to within a recent date has been confined to infantry is appointed to command the 2nd Provisional Regiment of Hussars, and that an officer now on the strength of an infantry regiment has been appointed, or is about to be appointed, adjutant of the same provisional regiment, he will say whether there is any deficiency of cavalry officers qualified or eligible to serve as colonels or adjutants of cavalry units.

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† See preceding volume, page 499.

MR. BRODRICK: Lieut.-Colonel de Lisle, who commanded a cavalry brigade in South Africa, under the immediate orders of Major-General Elliot, Inspector-General of Cavalry in India, with marked distinction and success, was on the 22nd October promoted to a majority in the 5th Dragoon Guards, and he has since been selected by the Commander-in-Chief for the 2nd Provisional Regiment of Hussars at Hounslow. It is clearly desirable that an officer, of whatever arm of the service, who has proved competent to command a cavalry brigade in the field, should continue in the cavalry arm. The adjutant of the provisional regiment is a riding-master of long cavalry service. The answer to the last part of the Question is in the negative.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is it the intention of the Government to continue the practice of appointing officers from foot regiments to the command of mounted troops, especially in time of war?

MR. BRODRICK: The Commander-in-Chief will make any appointments he may consider necessary for the good of the service. I do not suppose it will become the usual practice to remove officers from one branch of the service to another, but I am sure the House will desire that the advantage of the public service shall stand first in these matters.

Instruction of Naval Officers.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty has approved of new regulations as to the instruction of naval officers; and, if so, whether a copy will be laid upon the Table of the House.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): Yes, Sir; new regulations with respect to the instruction of naval officers are in preparation, and will be shortly approved. A statement with regard to the changes contemplated will be issued at a very early date, and a copy will be laid upon the Table of the House.

Officers' Chargers in India.

MR. BUTCHER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the fact that the cost of buying chargers for officers of the Royal Horse Artillery and others is greater in India than in this country, and that, owing to the strain placed on horses in India by the manœuvres and by the climate, the risks of death and injury to horses in India are greater than at home; and whether, in view of the fact that officers of the Royal Horse Artillery and others serving in this country will, under a recent Army Order, be provided with two chargers free of cost, the Government of India will take steps to grant a similar benefit to officers of the Royal Horse Artillery and others serving in India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I am informed that no Army Order has yet been issued on the subject of the hon. Member's Question. If and when such an Order is issued it will be communicated in ordinary course to the Government of India, with whom it will rest to make whatever recommendation they may consider desirable in consequence.

Russian Import Duty on Herrings.

MR. BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that the duty on herrings into Russia is 13s. 6d. a barrel, against 3s. 6d. into Germany, he would take advantage of the presence of Prince Scherbatoff in London to bring the subject under the notice of the Russian Government.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): So far as I am aware, Prince Scherbatoff holds no official position in Russia. I am afraid that no useful purpose would be served by making a further representation to the

Russian Government on the subject to which my hon. friend refers. I shall be happy to show him the latest correspondence on the subject.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, are such of the British self-governing colonies as grant bounties on the production or export of sugar or sugar products entitled, under the Brussels Sugar Convention, to have their sugar and sugar products admitted at the lowest rate of import duty into Germany and the other countries parties to the Convention, or are they liable to have a countervailing duty imposed by such countries on their sugar and sugar products.

*LORD CRANBORNE: In the opinion of His Majesty's Government there is nothing in the Convention entitling such of the British self-governing colonies as grant bounties on the production or export of sugar or sugar products to have their sugar and sugar products admitted at the lowest rate of import duty into Germany and the other countries parties to the Convention, or to exempt them from liability to have a countervailing duty imposed by such countries on their sugar and sugar products

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: What about the other countries?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Do the Government hold that they are not bound to impose countervailing duties in these cases?

*LORD CRANBORNE: I have already told the House the Government considers that there is no obligation on them in any circumstances to impose countervailing duties against their own colonies.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Is there any such exemption in the Convention? I can find none.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I can only refer my hon. friend to other Questions which have been answered on the subject. If further information is wanted I must ask for notice of the Question.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have had an official notification that any other Power except Belgium has ratified the Brussels Sugar Convention; and whether any communications have been received from non-signatory Powers, apart from Russia, with regard to the right of this country to impose countervailing duties against them in the face of existing treaties, or on any other matters connected with the Convention.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The answer to both Questions is in the negative.

Evacuation of Shanghai by International Troops.

*LORD CHARLES BERESFORD: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British garrison is ordered to leave Shanghai on 20th December; and whether, in order that no step should be taken to the prejudice of British interests in the Far East, he can make arrangements to secure that the German garrison shall leave at the same time; and, if not, will he state at what date the German garrison are to take their departure.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): May I at the same time ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, having regard to the fact that Germany has fixed no date for the removal of her garrison from Shanghai, His Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of countermanding the withdrawal of British troops until the determination of the German Government has been announced.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I will answer these Questions together. The British garrison is under orders to leave Shanghai on the 20th instant. His Majesty's Government have been informed by the German Government that the German force will be withdrawn from Shanghai on December 20th, or failing that, early in January. Under these circumstances we see no reason for countermanding the orders already given to our troops.

Somaliland Operations.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will state the present position of affairs in Somaliland; and whether it is intended to place the conduct of the forthcoming campaign in the hands of the War Office.

*LORD CRANBORNE: Since Colonel Swayne's withdrawal to Bohotle General Manning has been engaged in improving and strengthening the lines of communication between that place and Berbera. Small parties of the Mullah's horsemen have been observed near Bohotle, but no attempt at interference has been made by them, nor have any reports been received of an intended advance by the Mullah. His Majesty's Government are in close communication with the Italian Government on the general situation. The conduct of the military operations has been transferred to the War Office.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Can the noble Lord say why the conduct of the affair has been transferred to the War Office?

*Lord CRANBORNE: That is a matter which rests with my right hon. friend at the head of the Government.

The Arrest of Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., in Brussels.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any apology with reference to the arrest of an hon. Member of this House by the Belgian Authorities has passed through the Foreign Office; and, if not, will he take steps to point out to the Belgian Government the propriety of such action.

*LORD CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Minister at Brussels was informed by the Belgian Government that the hon. Member referred to did not at the time of the occurrence declare himself to be an English Member of Parliament. On doing so, ultimately, regret was at once expressed that he had not in the first instance indicated his position and thus spared himself inconvenience.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: May I say that the information supplied to the noble Lord is not correct, as I informed the authorities at the beginning that I was a Member of this House. No expression of regret was made to me at the time or has since been made in connexion with the arrest.

Drink and Crime.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing that there are no official statistics of the extent to which crime is the consequence of drunkenness, he will request the judges and magistrates throughout England to notify all cases in which a sentence is passed for a crime which, in the opinion of the Bench, is partly or mainly the result of drunkenness; and whether, if this be found impracticable, he will obtain similar information through the police authorities for publication in the Annual Return of Judicial Statistics.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I am afraid that it is not possible to adopt either of the suggestions of the hon. Member. To ask magistrates and judges to make the Return indicated would be to ask them in every case that came before them to try an issue not in most cases included in the charge, and often very difficult to determine. As regards the police, I do not think that any such Return would be of much value. The experience of the Home Department in collecting the material for the Judicial Statistics is that on points of fact, *e.g.*, the number of convictions, apprehensions, etc., the Police Returns, which are prepared with great care, are trustworthy; but when points of opinion are involved—as would be the case on the point under discussion—it is practically impossible to obtain satisfactory or uniform returns from the 200 separate police forces in England and Wales. I may add that whenever trustworthy information on any point of this sort comes before the Home Office it is always dealt with in the Annual Return of Criminal Statistics.

Continental Postage Rates.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether any correspondence has recently taken place with the representatives of countries comprised in the Postal Union for the purpose of securing a reduction in the rate of postage from the United Kingdom to the Continent; and, if not, having regard to the effect of the rate of 2½d. the half-ounce, more especially on merchants and others having business relations with the

Continent, will the British delegates to the next Congress of the Postal Union be instructed to endeavour to obtain the assent of the Union to its reduction.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HAYES FISHER, Fulham)—(for Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN): No such correspondence has taken place; and I do not propose, as at present advised, to instruct the British delegates to raise the question at the next Congress, though I should of course be prepared to give careful consideration to any proposals made by foreign Administrations upon the subject.

Postal Circulation of German Lottery Circulars.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that during the last month 1,000 letters were posted at the General Post Office, London, inviting individuals to participate in the German Money Lottery, organised by Friedrich Fricke, banker, Bremen; whether any steps have been taken to trace the parties who posted these letters in London; and whether it is proposed to institute any prosecution.

MR. HAYES FISHER (for MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN): I am not aware of the facts of this case. I presume, however, that the invitations referred to were posted in closed covers, and in such case the Post Office would not know that they were being forwarded. If lottery circulars were observed in open covers they would be stopped. The sending of lottery circulars through the post is not an offence against Post Office regulations but against the Lottery Act. The Postmaster General is not the proper person to enforce the provisions of the Lottery Act, but I shall, of course, be happy to assist the Secretary of State for the Home Department in any action which he may think it necessary to take.

Education Bill—Fees.

* SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, with reference to the power of the local education authority to abolish fees, if he can inform the House where that power is now given as regards non-provided schools; whether, within the limitation of Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Elementary Education Act, 1891, managers may continue to charge fees; and, under Section 4, the Education Department may sanction the imposition of new fees.

THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The Sections of the Act of 1891 referred to by the right hon. Baronet are not repealed. The managers of non-provided schools must follow the directions of the local education authority in respect of secular instruction, as a condition of maintenance. It therefore rests with the local educational authority to forbid the charge of fees, or to allow them subject to the limitations referred to.

Education Bill—Funds of Local Education Authorities.

MR. LOWE (Birmingham, Edgbaston): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether it is intended that the managers of provided and non-provided schools, or either of them, shall have the management of the funds which, under the Education Bill, are to be provided for them by the local education authority for such purposes as maintenance, the payment of teachers' salaries, and other current obligations, or whether these payments will have to be made by the local authority at some central office; and whether any discretion will be left to the local authority in this matter.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: It is intended that the local education authority should have full discretion as to the mode in which the funds at their disposal are to be used for the maintenance and efficiency of public elementary schools. They can make the payments themselves if they please, or they can entrust the managers with the duty of making payments. I will refer the hon. Member to Clause 7 (1) and to Clause 19 (5) of the Bill.

United Irish League—Officials holding Grazing and Evicted Farms.

MR. THOMAS CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many officials of the United Irish League hold grazing or evicted farms in Ireland.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The latest information on this subject, carefully compiled last month, shows that there were then 184 officials of the organisation named holding grazing and evicted farms. These figures represent an increase of fifteen on the January returns. The expression "officials" includes presidents and vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and members of branch committees. There were last month thirty-five presidents and vice-presidents holding grazing farms, and five holding evicted farms; twenty-three secretaries holding grazing farms and three evicted farms; twenty-six treasurers holding grazing farms and three evicted farms and eighty-one committee members holding grazing farms and eight evicted farms—the totals of 165 and nineteen comparing with 146 and twenty-three in January of this year.

MR. TULLY: Has there been no prosecution for boycotting against these hideous hypocrites, or their worthy leader, the Member for Cork?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

The Under Secretary for Ireland.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the amount of the salary of the Under Secretary for Ireland, Sir Antony M'Donnell, and the yearly salary paid his predecessor in office, Sir David Harrel.

MR. WYNDHAM: There has been no alteration in the salary, the amount of which is shown in the published Estimate for the Department.

Alleged Assault by Armagh Orangemen.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 29th November two Roman Catholics, named Gorman, residing within three miles of Keady, county Armagh, were assaulted at the Keady post office by a rural postman, named Wilson, and two Orangemen; will he say what steps have the police taken to institute a prosecution in this case; and whether the conduct of this postman will be brought under the notice of the Postmaster General.

MR. WYNDHAM: Proceedings for assault are pending in this case. The question of bringing the matter under the notice of the Postal Authorities must await the result of the magisterial investigation.

Drumconrath Dispensary Vacancy.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Local Government Board has been directed to the meeting of medical men at the Whitworth Hall, Drogheda, on the 27th November, when it was agreed not to accept the vacant Drumconrath dispensary at a less salary than £200 a year, and to the fact that the county Galway medical men at a meeting on the 26th November passed a similar resolution regarding vacant dispensary appointments in their county; and whether steps will be taken by the Local Government Board to secure the payment of larger salaries to Irish poor law doctors.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first two inquiries is in the affirmative. In answer to the last inquiry, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his similar question of the 6th November.†

Education Grant for Ireland.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why the technical instruction grants have been limited on account of the equivalent grant under the Education Bill; and if he can state the approximate amount of the equivalent grant under that Bill to which Ireland will become entitled for educational purposes.

MR. WYNDHAM: In respect of the first inquiry, I must refer to my published letter of the 1st instant to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Waterford, to which I have, at present, nothing to add. In reply to the second inquiry, I refer to the Prime Minister's statement of the 25th November.‡

MR. TULLY: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give an approximate idea of the amount of the equivalent grant?

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxvi., 275.

‡ See preceding volume, page 386.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member may take it from me that the time has not come for discussing that question.

Royal Dublin Society's Shows—Hackney Challenge Cup.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board can explain the disappearance of the challenge cup given by the Board at the Royal Dublin Society's Shows for the encouragement of hackney breeding; and what steps have been taken to recover it.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am making inquiries into this matter and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Irish Congested Districts Board.

MR. CAREW (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the land purchase operations of the Congested Districts Board are being impeded by want of funds for improvement works; and if so, what steps will be taken to relieve the difficulty.

MR. WYNDHAM: A sum of £10,000 was recently added to the amount voted in the present year as a special grant-in-aid of the expenses of the Congested Districts Board. With the funds now available it is anticipated that the execution of necessary improvement works will not be delayed on estates purchased with a view to resale to tenants.

Venezuela.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I desire to ask the right hon. Gentleman two questions. The first is whether he can inform the House as to the position of affairs in Venezuela; as to the presence of His Majesty's ships of war in that neighbourhood; and whether he can lay Papers on the Table explaining the situation.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): For the past two years His Majesty's Government have had grave cause of complaint on various occasions of the unjustifiable interference by the Venezuelan Government with the liberty and the property of British subjects. No efforts have been spared to obtain amicable settlement of these cases. In none of them has a satisfactory explanation been forthcoming, and latterly the representations of His Majesty's Minister have been practically unnoticed. There are also cases in which British subjects and companies have large claims against the Venezuelan Government. We have been acting in conjunction with the German Government, who have also large claims against Venezuela, and a final communication has now been made to the Venezuelan Government by His Majesty's Minister and by the German Chargé d'Affaires. If no satisfactory reply is received from the Venezuelan Government the two Governments have decided to take such measures as may be necessary to enforce their demands. As regards the laying of Papers, none are ready for presentation; but I will consult my noble friend at the Foreign Office as to what steps can be taken in the matter.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: May I ask whether the communication sent to the Venezuelan Government by the Governments of Great Britain and Germany was a joint communication or a separate and identic communication.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think that notice should be given of these supplementary Questions. But I believe I am right in saying it was neither a joint communication nor an identic communication.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Is this action being taken to enforce the claims of private individuals against the Venezuelan Government?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The right hon. Gentleman has said he must have notice of further Questions.

Education Bill—Position of Voluntary School Teachers.

MR. FREDERICK WILSON (Norfolk, Mid): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, under Schedule 2 (15 and 16), of the Education Bill teachers in board schools will become officers of the Council, while teachers in voluntary schools will not be placed on the same footing or enjoy the same advantages.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): May I at the same time ask whether if, as the result of the passing of the Bill, the office of a voluntary school teacher be abolished or his position be in any way worsened, such teacher will be eligible for the compensation to existing officers provided for under Clause 20 of the second schedule of the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Under Section 35 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, School Board teachers are technically officers of the School Board, and will therefore become officers of the local education authority. It is this fact that brings School Board teachers within the ordinary provisions as to compensation on abolition of office. I do not imagine that, as a matter of fact, many cases of abolition of office will arise. Voluntary school teachers, it being observed, are under the present system appointed by the managers of the school; they will continue to be so appointed. There is no change of employment, though there is a change of masters, and they will remain employees of the managers, subject to the powers of the local education authority under the Bill. To place these voluntary school teachers on the same footing as School Board teachers, to make them technically officers, would of course be inconsistent with the scheme of the Bill. I do not see how the error has arisen which assumes that the provisions of the Bill are unfavourable to voluntary school teachers. On the contrary, there is no doubt whatever that voluntary school teachers are the very class who will most benefit by the passing of the measure. The hon. Gentleman asks me whether, if this Bill has some indirect effect on the position of some voluntary school teacher, that school teacher will obtain compensation. No, Sir; nor will the Board School teacher under like circumstances. I do not think it possible to consider indirect and collateral results. All that can be said is that on the whole, and probably in every case, the indirect result is enormously to the advantage of the voluntary school teacher.

DR. MACNAMARA: The point is this: that in the case of the School Board teacher whose office is abolished or whose position is worsened he is to have compensation. I want to know whether, if the office of the voluntary school teacher is abolished or his position worsened in any way directly, he will be eligible for compensation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have not the text of the Act with me, and I must therefore ask the hon. Gentleman to put the Question on the Paper.

Business of the House—London Water Bill, etc.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I desire to ask the right hon. Gentleman a question as to the business of the House. Somewhat to my surprise I find on the Notice Paper a Motion by the right hon. Gentleman to suspend the Twelve o'clock Rule, apparently with the intention of concluding the Committee stage of the London Water Bill tonight. May I say that the attendance in the House on Friday was somewhat slack. In that slackness I include myself. But I was present while an arrangement was made as to the provisions of the Bill with respect to the Water Board. I was not, however, aware of the intention to finish the Committee stage tonight; and as there is considerable feeling that if such a course were adopted, adequate time will not be given for the discussion of the Amendments, which are substantial and not at all obstructive, I hope the right hon. Gentleman will reconsider the matter, and give a little more time for the Committee stage of the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sure the right hon. Gentleman will appreciate the extreme difficulty of the position of the Leader of the House in attempting to arrange business if this kind of appeal is made to him from the Front Opposition Bench on Monday, against an arrangement made with the Front Opposition Bench on Friday.

MR. LOUGH: I knew nothing about it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member is not yet on the Front Bench. There was one of those friendly, and, I think, most useful arrangements made, which included two things with regard to today, namely, that the Twelve o'clock Rule should be suspended by the general consent of both sides, and that the Committee stage of the Water Bill should be concluded before the House rose, and for that arrangement, if I may use the phrase, there was "value received."

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is generally admitted, notwithstanding the dissent of the hon. Member for West Islington.

MR. LOUGH: I said nothing, but still I think it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My right hon. friend in charge of the Bill said that if a friendly understanding of that character could be assented to, he was prepared to agree to certain changes in the measure.

MR. LOUGH: He never said it openly.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (continuing): I think it would be deplorable if any arrangement with my hon. friend, come to under these circumstances should be departed from a few hours after it was made. Now that I have had an opportunity of acquainting the right hon. Gentleman with the facts, I hope he will not press his demand.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I desire to make a personal explanation, as I was in a sense responsible for the arrangement. As my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition has said, the attendance on Friday was slack, and necessarily so, with the result that in coming to the arrangement I was, to a certain extent, left to my own resources. I believe that, with the exception of an hon. friend who represents a London constituency, every Member on the Opposition side who has taken an active part in the discussion of the Bill endorsed my action—indeed, I did not take it without their endorsement. My desire was to get the Bill improved, and as we had been met in the most friendly way by the Minister in charge of the Bill, I thought I was justified in coming to some arrangement. But I am bound to say that I owe an apology to my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition in not having consulted him before making that arrangement, and for that error of judgment I heartily apologise. My object at the moment was to improve the Bill, but I quite agree that I did not take a proper view of the position.

MR. LOUGH: Hear, hear.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am not going to apologise to my hon. friend who has interrupted. I hope that, in the circumstances, the Leader of the House will see his way to postpone the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule, and allot the Morning Sitting tomorrow also to the Bill.

MR. LOUGH: Can the First Lord of the Treasury say whether the arrangement includes the subsequent stages of the Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, it does.

MR. LOUGH: I know nothing about it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman should seek for information from his own Front Bench. In addition to the finishing of the Committee Stage tonight, it was arranged that the Report Stage and Third Reading should be taken tomorrow.

MR. LOUGH: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to stick to any such arrangement? It is physically absolutely impossible.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, I propose to stick to the arrangement made between the two sides of the House.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: What other business will be taken during the week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the House is bound to stick to the substance of the arrangement with respect to the London Water Bill. But if it will mitigate feeling, I will consent to the postponement of the Report stage and Third Reading from Tuesday to

Wednesday. In that event, I shall take the Militia and Yeomanry Bill tomorrow at the Morning Sitting, and at the Evening Sitting the Committee stage of the Uganda Railway Resolution. I may venture to suggest, perhaps, that the discussion of the general principle of the Railway Bill should be postponed to the Report stage on Thursday, and in that event I will put down the Militia and Yeomanry Bill as the second Order at the Evening Sitting on Tuesday. On Wednesday the Report stage of the London Water Bill and the Third Reading will be the business. As to Friday, perhaps I may be allowed to defer my statement till tomorrow.

SIR. H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The right hon. Gentleman is no doubt aware that the Militia and Yeomanry Bill has not been read a second time, and that the Notice Paper contains three hostile Motions—two being from his own side. It does not look, therefore, as if the Bill can be carried through in a hasty manner between the 8th and 19th December.

MR. LOUGH: How long does the right hon. Gentleman intend to go on with the Water Bill tonight? I hope that if the President of the Local Government Board satisfies the right hon. Gentleman that we have done everything we can to expedite the Bill, he will still consent to give us the Morning Sitting tomorrow.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am surprised that, after the manifestation of feeling on both sides of the House, and after a specific arrangement has been made, the hon. Gentleman should still press me on that point. I do not think the hon. Gentleman ought to press me further. I will put it to the hon. Gentleman whether business can be smoothly and expeditiously conducted when a member of a Party allows himself licence to throw over his Leader and the whole of his Party.

MR. LOUGH: On the contrary——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! There is no question before the House. The hon. Member is persisting in treating this as if it were matter for discussion. It is not.

MR. LOUGH: I did not mean to say anything disorderly. The right hon. Gentleman had said that I refused to accept the decision of my Leader. On the contrary, my Leader has explained that he was not aware of this arrangement——

*MR. SPEAKER Order, order!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—MR. HERBERT SAMUEL.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland): I desire to make a personal explanation in regard to a matter which arose in debate last week. The right hon. Gentleman the senior Member for Oxford University, in the course of the debate on the Third Reading of the Education Bill, stated that a leaflet was issued during the recent Cleveland election containing a gross misstatement with regard to the Education Bill. I challenged that assertion at the time, and I have today received a letter from the right hon. Gentleman in which he says that he very much regrets to find that he was inaccurate in stating that any such leaflet was circulated, and that he unreservedly withdraws the assertion and expresses sincere regret at having made it. I think this ought to be made known in justice to those who conducted the election, and at the same time I thank the right hon. Gentleman for his frank and courteous letter of exoneration.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

BETTING.

The Lords communicate Copy of Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships in the present session of Parliament to further inquire into the increase of public betting amongst all classes, and whether any legislative measures are possible and expedient for checking the abuses occasioned thereby, together with the Minutes of Evidence, etc., as desired by this House.

BETTING.

Paper [communicated this day] to be printed. [No. 389.]

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER.)

(3.3.) Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the London

Water (re-committed) Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House").—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 122; Noes, 11. (Division List No. 612.)

AYES

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crombie, John William
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.)
Grant, Corrie
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kemp, George
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, General Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Taunt'n
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Burt, Thomas
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Philipps, John Wynford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Lough and Mr. Pirie.

LONDON WATER (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Jeffreys (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 5:—

(3.15.) Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) moved to leave out "compensation" and insert "money or stock" in page 3, line 19. He thought the grammar of the Clause almost required this change. This Clause was devoted to the distribution of the money or stock to be handed over to the Company, and it was in this form that the Bill went up to the Committee upstairs. It must have been by mistake that the word "compensation" was put in here. The Clause, as it stood, had no definite meaning. How could "compensation" be "paid or satisfied?" It was money that was paid for a certain consideration. He hoped the President of the Local Government Board would accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 13, to leave out 'compensation' and insert 'money or stock.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'compensation' stand part of the Clause."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said the word "compensation" ran through the whole Bill. In many different Clauses it was used to describe the same thing, and he was advised that if another word were used here it might lead to misapprehension afterwards. He adhered to the word "compensation."

MR. LOUGH said the right hon. Gentleman's argument was not a good one. In the other parts of the Bill the word had not the meaning which it had in the Clause under discussion. In this particular Clause it was absolutely restricted to money or stock.

MR. WALTER LONG said he would accept the Amendment.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said if the Amendment was accepted there must be a consequential Amendment in line 21, for the word "satisfied" there would not apply. He suggested that the word "issued" should be substituted.

The Amendment was agreed to. It was also agreed to substitute, in line 21, "issued" for "satisfied," and in line 25 to leave out "compensation" and insert "money or stock."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 27, to leave out 'fifth' and insert 'fourth.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long*); agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 27, after 'Act' to add, 'This sub-Section shall not apply to the New River Company.'"—(*Colonel Bowles*); agreed to.

Mr. Lough.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7:—

MR. FLETCHER MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston) moved to leave out from "as" in line 10, to "debenture" in line 11, and insert "in the opinion of the arbitrators will be equivalent in value to an equally good security producing the same income as the." He said although this was the form in which the Amendment was moved, it was really to secure for this new Water Trust, and for the public, in some form or other, a right which, according, he thought he might say, to the universal precedent of Parliament, had always been accorded to a public authority purchasing any private property. The principle upon which the compulsory purchase of private property had always been carried out was a very clear and definite one. They could not respect the actual private rights. One could easily understand that, but for the power of compulsory purchase, there might be in the possession of a single person a field that might render it practically impossible for a railway to join two towns. On countless occasions the Legislature had made provisions whereby private property could be taken, but it made such provisions equitable by providing in all cases that the owner of the private property should have the full value in money of his property, and that, in the case of there being a dispute, it should be settled by an impartial tribunal—an arbitration or a jury. One thing was always characteristic of those provisions. They gave to the purchasing authority the right to extinguish all interests in the property taken. The owner received the equivalent in money for everything the purchasing authority acquired, but that authority was always permitted to acquire every interest. It was the ordinary experience for those who had to deal with compensation cases to find that a property that had been taken over was in the hands of an occupier, who probably paid the rent to a person who was in the position of an intermediate landlord; up to them there were one, two, or three intermediate landlords; and after them came the ground landlord, to whom the ground rent was paid. As soon as Parliament had permitted a public body to take that property, the public body had the right to—and did—take over every one of those interests. It purchased the occupier's interest, very often including trade rights; it purchased the intermediate landlord's interests; it purchased the ground landlord's interest; and it became the sole and absolute owner of the property. But what it had to do was to pay the full money value of all it had taken. That having been the consistent practice of Parliament, he claimed, on behalf of the public, that it should not be departed from on this occasion. What were the rights and interests which they claimed that the new trust should be allowed to purchase? There were the undertakings of the companies, and the stock. It was to be allowed to purchase the undertakings with their burdens, just in the same way as a railway company purchased a house with its mortgages upon it, but with the right to pay those mortgages off. With regard to the question of debentures, some of them were redeemable, and about those no great difficulty arose. Some of them were irredeemable; there was some such provision as a Scotch feu-rent or an English perpetual ground rent. According to the universal practice of Parliament the purchasing authority would have the power of purchasing that feu, turning it into money, and becoming the absolute possessor of the property. He claimed for this Water Trust that it should be able to pay its irredeemable debentures at their market value, whatever that might be. The Committee must not for one moment imagine that he was advocating that they should take these irredeemable debentures as though they were redeemable, and that the trust ought to be allowed to pay the capital value in satisfaction of the debentures themselves. He was standing upon this—that they ought to allow the purchasing authority to buy up these debentures at a price which the arbitrators said was fair. He was going to show to the House that the present provisions of the Bill were an inequitable departure from the equitable practice of Parliament. What did the Bill propose? The Bill proposed that those who held irredeemable debentures should receive of Metropolitan water stock an amount which would produce an income equal to that which they would get from those debentures. Now, no man of business could possibly defend that as fair. [Cries of "Oh," from the MINISTERIAL Benches.] He was going to prove it. He did not attach weight to mere assertion. Just let him give a parallel instance. Suppose there was a man with a ground rent of some property which was required by a railway company for a station. Could it be said that that man would be receiving a fair value for what he was giving up if it were said to the Railway Company that that man must have an equal revenue charge on the station. The probability was that the rent which was worth twenty or twenty-two years' purchase would instantly spring up to a rent equal to thirty or thirty-three years' purchase, and he would be receiving what was a capital value, 50 per cent. more than he was giving up. Everybody knew that certain property would be valued to return 5 per cent., but freeholds were valued at a much smaller rate. Consols yielding 2½ per cent. were worth £100. [An HON. MEMBER on the MINISTERIAL Benches: 92½.] He was not taking the particular value of Consols at this moment. A safe investment of a different type could be found which returned a higher interest and he said, without the slightest fear of contradiction, that no business man would say that the capital value of an investment could be measured by the return which it gave. If that were true, there could be no question that his method was equally fair. What he said was that a fair capital value ought to be obtained for what was given up, and no more. If it was said on the other side that the capital value and the income value would lead to the same result, then why depart from the universal practice of Parliament and take the value from income and not from capital? That he was right was evident, for looking at the stocks of the water companies themselves, they found that the irredeemable debentures of some of the water companies stood at a higher figure than those which had the same amount of income. Could it be fair that the owners of these two stocks should receive the same sum of money? It was not fair, even between the owners of the stocks belonging to the different companies; still less was it fair between the owners of the stocks and the metropolitan consumers. What was the case in regard to them? There was no question that metropolitan water stock, secured on the rating value over the whole of its enormous area, would stand exceedingly high in the market. That was to say, the capital value as compared with the income value would stand very high—far higher than these water stocks. If it was said that it would not, then surely this Amendment would be accepted. But it was nonsense to say that the credit of the area from which the rates were derived to pay the income on the water stock would not be such as not to give them a very high capital value in the market. If a person who held the present irredeemable debentures was to get an equal income, he would be given a considerably higher value than that at which the stock was bought and sold in the market at the time this Bill was brought in, and it would be departing from Parliamentary practice for eighty years. And in whose interest would they be departing thus from Parliamentary practice? The interest of the body of people holding these particular stocks. And what would be the interpretation put on it? Only one. Nobody could say that it was not fair to give them the capital value which their holders had in the market; but if a special mode of compensating them were adopted, which gave them in this case, he believed, half-a-million more than they would get by the ordinary Parliamentary practice, the only interpretation that would be put on it would be that the Government had not held even the scales of justice between the buyer and the seller; that it had been influenced by some power; that it had been affected by the financial interests of the owners of this stock; and that it had allowed itself—because these persons were very powerful—to leave that position which had always been considered to be the equitable position of allowing purchase at a fair value to be determined by the arbitrators—making only such allowance as was necessary to prevent loss on re-investment. Now, what he proposed was that the arbitrators should fix the value of that interest. In other words the Water Trust should be treated like every other purchaser of property for public purposes up till now had been treated. He was curious to know what answer would be given to his argument. In the first place, it could not be said that what he proposed was unfair. It could not be said that if the holders of the water companies, stock got a fair capital value for what they held, they were being treated inequitably. It could not be said that it was a matter of indifference as to the form the Clause should take in going through the Committee. There was no question that these water stocks—certainly in the case of many of the companies—did not stand at such a high capital value per cent. as the Metropolitan Consolidated Stock, for instance. It could not be said that his proposal was a violation of any compact between the companies and the holders of these debentures. It was simply compulsory purchase; it was a violation of no arrangement; it did not pretend to redeem the irredeemable, but simply insisted on the power of purchase at a fair market value. He suggested that the Committee would be showing that it was not influenced by the pressure of a wealthy body of people to depart from the well-known equitable lines which had guided its conduct for the last eighty years by adopting his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 10, to leave out from the word 'as,' to the word 'debenture,' in line 11, and insert the words 'in the opinion of the arbitrators will be equivalent in value to an equally good security producing the same income as the.'"—(*Mr. Fletcher Moulton.*)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

(3.40.) SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said he gathered from the hon. and learned Gentleman's argument that he maintained the debenture holders of the Water Companies were under the present Clause of the Bill to receive more than they were entitled to, and he proposed by his Amendment that they should be paid in something which would be of equivalent value to an equally good security producing the same income. Now, he thought that if the hon. and learned Gentleman's Amendment were carried, it would give to the debenture holders a larger capital value for their stock than they would receive under the Bill as it stood. He would endeavour to show to the Committee why that should be. The debenture stocks of the London Water Companies were trustee securities—the only trustee securities which were not Corporation or Government stock, or the debentures of English railways. Now, 3 per cent. debenture stock of English railways stood at the present moment at 101. They varied from 100 to 101½, at which latter figure the London and North Western debentures now stood. If the Amendment were carried they would have to give more than the par value to the owners of the present water stock, because they would have to give something which would produce the same income. The circular which had been issued by the London County Council assumed that the water stock would be at par. What was the basis for such an assumption? The only stock to which the new water stock could be compared was the 3 per cent. stock of the London County Council. It would not be contended that that stock, which was secured on the rates, would be worth less than the 3 per cent. stock of the Water Board, which was also secured on the rates. Yet the County Council stock stood at from 98¼ to 98½; and, therefore, it could not be assumed that the new stock would be at par.

MR. MOULTON said that the debentures could be purchased at their value.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said it was curious that the hon. and learned Gentleman should have said that, because only the other day he wished to buy £1,500 worth of water debenture stock and could not get it. Then the circular stated that the stocks should be exchanged on the basis of the Stock Exchange prices for December last. In that month the war was still dragging on, and the stocks were lower than they had been for the preceding ten years. Was it right, therefore, to pick out that particular month? In December he himself gave evidence before the Joint Committee on that very point. Moreover, they did not even take the average prices for the month, but the lowest prices recorded. The hon. and learned Gentleman asked how it was that one debenture stock stood higher than another. The explanation was simple. There might be stock of one company on the market and no stock of another; and the stock which happened to be on the market stood at a lower price than stock which was not on the market. The water debenture stock stood at from 96½ to 97½, and the County Council stock stood at from 98¼ to 98½. That was the difference; and it seemed to him that the County Council was endeavouring to make a mountain out of a molehill. The Amendment would give the debenture holders more than they would get under the Bill as it stood, and would add extremely to the cost, trouble, and time that would be involved. Therefore, he trusted that the Government would adhere to their proposal, and give the debenture holders their present incomes. The hon. and learned Member appeared to be under the impression that the capital value had a good deal to do with the matter; but the people who held the debenture stock were trustees, and it was a matter of perfect indifference to the majority of them whether the stock would be worth 97½ or 98½, as they would only look to the income. For all these reasons he hoped the Government would adhere to their proposal.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he did not know why the hon. Baronet was opposing the Amendment, because he seemed to think that the debenture holders would not be any worse off, and might be better off under the Amendment.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY asked why the public should have to pay more than was required.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he would be prepared to take the risk of that. The hon. Baronet was a great authority on prices and credit, but he confessed he did not think that the figures the hon. Baronet quoted were really germane. In dealing with such large sums they ought to pay to the holders something equivalent to that which they now had; and that was what was proposed by the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend. At present the various debenture stocks were speculative; they differed in price; and he did not think that the hon. Baronet would contend that they were all of the same value.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said that they varied from 97 to 99 at the present moment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that that might be the case at the present moment, but if they looked back a year or two they would find the variation had been a great deal more. At all events, the holders were going to get a better security than they had at present, as the new stock would have behind it the rates of London, and would be better as regarded security, stability, and marketability. Then, again, it should be remembered that the debenture stocks varied very much in regard to the amount of debentures issued. Some of the companies had been very provident, and had issued a comparatively small amount of debenture stock, whereas other companies had issued a very considerable portion of their capital in the form of debentures. He did not see why the Government should deal differently with the debentures from the way in which debentures were treated in Clause 2 Under that Clause the Water Board was not to take into account any question of debentures, redeemable or irredeemable, but was to pay over a certain sum to the companies concerned, leaving them to deal with their own debenture stock. That was practically the alternative that was now suggested to the Government. Either they should be given the same value, or a lump sum to deal with their debenture stocks in their own way. He confessed he did not see why the debentures, whether they were of a speculative value or not, should be entitled to a larger sum than they would at present fetch. Their contention was that the proposal of the Government would involve an increased capital charge of between £200,000 and £300,000 on the ratepayers, and he would, therefore, support the Amendment.

*SIR E. DURNING-LAWRENCE (Cornwall, Truro) said he did not hold any shares in the Water Companies, but he happened to know that there was great difficulty experienced by trustees in purchasing high class debenture stocks. The Committee could not imagine the enormous trouble that would be caused to the market by the repayment of £10,000,000, 3 per cent. debenture stock of the Water Companies, which would necessitate the purchase of £10,000,000 of the class of stock that was capable of being held by trustees. Even at present an investor had to wait for two or three months before he could invest a comparatively small sum of £100,000 or £200,000; and if £10,000,000 of trustee stock was demanded from the market it could not be supplied for two, three, or five months, and every kind of debenture stock would rise, while the throwing of an extra £10,000,000 of the new Water Stock upon the market would for a time seriously depress that particular stock.

MR. LOUGH said it was quite true that they could not get £10,000,000 of debentures at present; but, immediately the Bill was passed, every one of the debentures would have to be exchanged, and the whole of the £10,000,000 would be forthcoming. The argument of the hon. Baronet the Member for Peckham was a little closer, because he quoted from the circular of the London County Council, which was a very good authority. The hon. Baronet gave very useful evidence before preceding Committees, and especially helped Lord Llandaff's Committee to the conclusion at which it arrived. The hon. Baronet now contended that the debentures of the companies were equally as good a security as the new water stock. If they were, the acceptance of the Amendment would not do any harm to the vendors. But some of the debentures were not as good as others; the interest was not the same in all cases; and he was quite sure that hon. Gentlemen opposite would agree that the more debentures that were issued the less valuable they were. What he submitted was, that as the stock to be bought varied, whereas the stock to be issued would not vary, it was necessary to accept a provision such as that proposed in the Amendment. Their whole argument turned on the question as to whether the new stock would be, on the whole, better than the present stock. The Water Board would have all the stock that the companies possessed and a great deal more, for they would have the rates of the area behind them. This would put the security in a different class altogether from that in which the Water Company debentures stood. The hon. Baronet had tried to impugn the authority of the Council's statement by saying that in December the war had not been finished, and the stocks and shares were higher now than then. As a matter of fact, Consols were lower now than they had been at any time during the war, and it was hardly fair to suggest that the Council took an unfavourable date. The reason the water debenture stock was higher now was because of this Bill. This Amendment would in no way restrict the arbitrators.

*Mr. COHEN (Islington, E,)said that in his opinion the new stock would be lower in market value, and not higher, than the Water Companies' debenture stock. He had been much impressed by what had fallen from the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite, and he personally would be glad if they could, in the arrangement of this Bill, uphold the ordinary procedure of the House in these matters, and if he objected to this Amendment it was solely in the interest of the ratepayers. This was new stock, for which a price had to be created, and it would suffer an unavoidable amount of depreciation on the market, whereas the stock proposed to be substituted would be appreciated. Let them by all means depreciate as much as possible what they wished to buy, but do not let them rig the market against themselves by appreciating what they wished to purchase.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The point which they were anxious to raise was the substitution of such an amount of stock as should be equivalent in value. The question, therefore, was as to how much new water stock should be issued, and there was no need to complicate matters by introducing the consideration of income. The reasons which decided him to vote in favour of the Amendment were two. One was that the capital value of the new water stock would, cent. for cent., £100 for £100, be greater than the value of the old Water Companies' debenture stock. The hon. Baronet, who spoke with such authority on Stock Exchange matters, would not deny that.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY: I think the difference would be very small —1 per cent. or 1½ per cent.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON said it was stated on behalf of the County Council that it would be 10 per cent. If the hon. Baronet were right it would not much matter, but if the County Council were right the question would be a most important one. The importance or otherwise of the question, however, did not affect the merits of the proposed arrangement. One hon. Member had said the water stock would be more valuable than the old Water Companies' stock; then was it fair that the House should give to the debenture holders that which, in the judgment of the arbitrators, would be an absolute equivalent in value in new water stock? Was it a fair way of measuring the price that there should be in the new water stock no more than that which the arbitrator thought to be a fair equivalent in capital value? He should have liked to have heard from the hon. Baronet, or some other Stock Exchange authority, something upon this point. It was alleged that by the action of the Governmen tthey were equalising securities which were at the moment not equal in value. It was suggested that if there was such a difference it was because one stock was scarcer than the other, and therefore, regarded as a Stock Exchange commodity, fetched a higher price. Whether it was so or not, it was not the allegation of those who opposed the Government plan. Their allegation was that this difference existed between the stock of one company and that of another; that the larger the amount of stock in proportion to the security the smaller was the margin of security, and the less valuable would the debenture stock be. That had nothing to do with the comparative scarcity of the stock, regarded as Stock Exchange goods, and he would be glad to know from somebody who could speak with authority whether or not there was a different margin of security for the various debenture stocks.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY thought the hon. Member was in error in supposing the difference in price to be due to there being a larger or smaller amount of debenture stock. The difference depended on whether or not there had been an issue, so that there was more of one stock about than of another. There might possibly be a slight difference in the direction suggested by the hon. Gentleman in the case of the New River Company, in consequence of certain associations which made its stock a little more valuable than its intrinsic worth.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON took refuge in the undeniable fact that, if there was a better security for one stock than for another, the stock with the better security must have the larger market value. If the Water Company differed in this respect, there was a difference in the present value of the stock, and under the Government proposal that difference would be extinguished. That was certainly not fair if true, and it constituted a strong objection to the plan of the Government. As the suggestion of his hon. friend avoided the difficulty, in the absence of any further explanation he should support it.

Mr. WALTER LONG said the debate had confirmed him in the view that the course adopted by the Government was the wisest and best. Whatever might be the truth as between the opinions held by experts as to the different ways of valuing these securities, one fact had come out clearly, viz., that, if the condition of these stocks was so various and was governed by circumstances so completely outside the control of the ordinary investor, the hon. and learned Member's proposal, if inserted in the Bill in the first instance, would have resulted in operations having for their object the forcing up of the price of securities in order that the arbitrator should fix a higher value. What was the present situation? The Government believed they were doing even-handed justice between the holders of these securities and the ratepayers. Everybody knew that, under the Bill as it stood, persons holding this class of investment were entitled to its equivalent in income. One did not require to be a financial expert to understand that. If, however, the Amendment were adopted, it would immediately become the object and business of those interested to see that such a market value was created as would secure for them a high price. It had been said that it was not right that the holders of such stock should get special consideration. He was not afraid to defend the holders of valuable property in the House of Commons, if it was right that they should be defended. There was no crime in defending the rights of property simply because the owner of the property happened to be a rich man. But that question did not enter into this matter at all. What had caused the Government to have special care in dealing with these debentures was the knowledge, conveyed to them by experts, that the stocks were held to a large extent, not by wealthy people to whom a reduction of income would be a matter of small consequence, but by trustees on behalf of poor people to whom even a small percentage of reduction of income would mean, not only the loss of luxuries, but in many cases the difference between comfort and discomfort. Then it had been urged that no precedent existed for such a transaction. If it was a question of precedent, he might point out that there was no precedent for the compulsory redemption of this class of irredeemable stock. It was a very strong step the Government were taking. Lord Llandaff's Commission reported against it, and Lord Llandaff maintained his opposition in the Joint Committee, but the Government, when they had to consider the steps they would take, decided that in the best interests of municipal finance a permanent debt ought not to be hung around the neck of any local authority. This was the first of those permanent debts, and consequently the Government decided that these irredeemable debentures should be redeemable. Parliament was asked to enact that between the passing of the Bill and the redemption of the stock a sufficient interval should elapse to prevent any possibility of injustice to existing holders, and terms were provided which the

Government believed to be clear and equitable. By taking this middle course the Government thought they would be doing justice all round, and the debate had confirmed them in that opinion. Both sides had the same object in view, viz., that justice should be done, and that the ratepayers should not suffer loss. Curiously enough, the hon. and learned Gentleman on the other side thought his plan would save the ratepayers' pockets, while equally eminent experts on the Government side thought that result would be secured by the plan of the Bill. He was not so foolish as to step in between experts, but he thought that when such eminent experts differed, the Government had acted wisely in taking their present course, and he hoped the Committee would support them.

(4.23) Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 119 ; Noes, 45. (Division List No. 613.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H'nry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J (Manc'r)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r Haml'ts
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kemp, George
Kimber, Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Taunt'n
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, John Wynford

Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer,RtHnC.R.(Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Thomas,F. Freeman-(Hastings
Tomkinson, James
Wallace, Robert
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Fletcher Moulton and
Mr. Corrie Grant.

(4.35.) MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) moved to omit sub-Section 6 from Clause 7. He desired to ask—Why should there be such a long period as sixty years? They were taking in this Bill a minimum period of sixty years, thus preventing the public generally from deriving any advantage from the cheapening of omney during that period. If this Amendment were carried it would assist the public, who were being deprived of the advantages which they would have received under the Bill originally introduced by the Government. The new Water Board ought to have an opportunity of paying off their loans after thirty years, and re-borrowing with advantage to the public.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 32, to leave out sub-Section (6)."—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped the Member for Pudsey would not think it necessary to press this Amendment, because, as he was advised, the effect of the Amendment, if carried, would really not be precisely what was anticipated. If they left out the sub-Section which prescribed that the stock should not be redeemable until after sixty years, the effect would be to leave it with the Local Government Board, under Clause 18, sub-Section 2a, to make their own regulations as to any period of redemption. The object of the hon. Member was apparently to leave out this period of sixty years in order that a shorter period should be inserted. He had already told the Committee what were the reasons which led the Government to think there ought to be a period of not less than sixty years. He did not think it was necessary for him to repeat those reasons, and he hoped the hon. Member would not press the Amendment.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR FREDERICK BANBURY moved to leave out the word "not" in line 33. He moved this Amendment because it was a recommendation which was strongly insisted upon by the Llandaff Commission. If they took away from these persons their irredeemable stock, they ought to let them have new stock of equal value. Irredeemable stock was worth more than redeemable, but they were taking away by compulsion irredeemable stock and giving no compensation for it. It might be urged that they were giving a slightly better security, but the difference was very small. He trusted that his right hon. friend would, at any rate, see his way, if he could not give irredeemable stock, to extend the period for longer than sixty years.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 33, to leave out the word 'not.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'not' stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said he regarded this Amendment as a reactionary step. It had been the invariable practice for many years to instil into municipalities the desirability of freeing themselves from perpetual debt, and to follow up that practice by another which had for its object the making perpetual of these securities would be very undesirable. He had already pointed out the reason why the Government thought it was desirable to ask Parliament to make a redemption of irredeemable stock possible, and there was not a very great difference between sixty and eighty years. He asked the hon. Baronet the Member for Peckham, who spoke with great authority on these questions, not to invite the Committee to take a step which might form a very bad precedent, and which might be quoted in a great number of cases in the future.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said he should have liked a little more definiteness from the right hon. Gentleman about the period of redemption. It appeared to him that sixty years was not too long a period, and it was desirable to keep the Clause as it stood in the Bill. He thought that to extend the period further would be tying the hands of the municipality unnecessarily. He should deprecate the extension of the period in any way.

*SIR FREDERICK BANBURY thought the hon. and learned Gentleman would agree with him that if in the interest of the State property was to be taken away, compensation should be given. He understood his right hon. friend would make no objection to that if he withdrew his Amendment and substituted the word "eighty."

MR. LOUGH: No, no.

*SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he understood, if the word "sixty" were left in, the option would remain at the end of sixty years.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he understood that the President of the Local Government Board was opposing the Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG: What I said was that while I deprecated the adoption of the Amendment, if there was a general desire expressed that there should be an extension, I should be willing to give it consideration.

*SIR FREDERICK BANBURY asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY moved to leave out "sixty" and insert "thirty" in Clause 7, line 33. It seemed to him that in regard to this matter the President of the Local Government Board required a little stiffening of the back from the Opposition side of the House. The hon. Baronet had said that the debenture holder got better security, and therefore ought to accept that stock on slightly less advantageous terms than he would otherwise be expected to take. They would have one minimum term of redemption of sixty years, and another minimum term of redemption of thirty years. It was very disadvantageous at the beginning to create two different classes of stock. The Water Board should be put in the position of the London County Council of being able to redeem stock after thirty years. He did not think any injury was sustained through that arrangement by the people who took the stock. The right hon. Gentleman knew very well, from his experience in local government matters, that in no case were long sinking funds and long terms of redemption given. He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should, in regard to the Water Board, adopt the same period for the redemption of stock as in the case of other bodies.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 33, to leave out the word 'sixty' and insert the word 'thirty.'"—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'sixty' stand part of the Clause."

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said that what happened in this matter was this. Before the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons both the Water Companies and the London County Council were represented by eloquent and able counsel. One party claimed that eighty years should be the period, and the other party contended that thirty years should be fixed. The Joint Committee, in order to arrive at a compromise, agreed to put in "sixty," believing that would be a nice medium. The Government considered that sixty years ought to be accepted as a compromise between the two contending parties.

MR. LOUGH said it had been stated that these debenture holders were entitled to a longer term because they had an irredeemable security now, and because they were asked to give up something they had come to like. The hon. Baronet thought, therefore, they ought to be compensated for giving it up. He wished to point out that, owing to their having had this irredeemable security, it had advanced greatly in value. What were the circumstances under which they were asked to give up the security? The circumstances were the same with regard to the debenture holders as the other stockholders. This House said that it was for the public benefit that they should give up their securities. They had been very well compensated in the high price to which the securities had gone, and it was on a liberal scale that they would be bought out. The Committee should look at this from the municipal point of view. The municipalities had not got long periods for the redemption of stock, and, therefore, he thought thirty years would answer for all practical purposes.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) said that the Committee would do well to take into consideration the provisions of Clause 8 when dealing with this matter. That Clause provided that the Water Board should within eighty years purchase or redeem all redeemable debenture stock and all mortgage debts. He thought, therefore, if the date were extended, it should be to eighty instead of sixty years. He hoped the hon. Baronet would take a division if the Government did not alter "sixty" to "eighty."

(4.58.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 119; Noes 48. (Division List No. 614.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusH'nryEden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy M.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt. HnSirJ. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, RtHnLordG (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Heaton, John Henniker
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James HenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kimber, Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, RtHon. WilliamEdw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Malcolm, Ian
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, RtHn. A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Saunderson, Rt. HnCol. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, RtHn. SirWilliam H.
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.

Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron, Walden)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Thomas, F. Freeman- (Hastings
Tomkinson, James
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. George Whiteley and
Mr. Lough.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8:—

Mr. HALDANE said he wished to move an Amendment to extend the period in which the water authority was compelled to redeem its securities from eighty to 100 years. No doubt eighty years was a very considerable period, but, having regard to the fact that the amount to be redeemed would amount to forty millions at least, the result would be rather a heavy charge on the Sinking Fund. He thought he was right in saying that the Llandaff Commission contemplated 100 years as the possible period, and he suggested to the Government that it would be well worth their consideration to adopt 100 instead of eighty years.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 36, to leave out 'eighty,' and insert 'one hundred.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 17, to leave out 'also.'" (*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'also' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said that this Amendment was moved in order to alter the Clause a little further down by inserting the words "for the most part." The phrase proposed to be inserted was extremely vague. This proposal had been very carefully considered by the Joint Select Committee. The object was that the best information in regard to the New River Company's undertaking should be at the disposal of the new Board, but he preferred the words in the Bill to those of the Amendment.

Mr. LOUGH asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said he understood that the present debenture stock of the New River Company extended to all their property, including property other than that which would be acquired for the purposes of the Water Trust, and the extent to which that property would be relieved from the burden of these debentures would be the measure of the increased value of these debentures. He wished to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it would be within the power of the arbitrators to apportion the debenture stock between the land which remained to the New River Company and the land which was required to be taken by the Water Trust, or whether the arbitrators would deduct such amount of the value of the residue land as was created by the debentures being freed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 28, after the word 'secured,' to insert 'and the court of arbitration shall estimate the amount by which the capital value of such estate, houses, and property will be enhanced in consequence of such freedom and discharge, and shall deduct the same from the value of the undertaking of the New River Company as determined under Section 23 (*a*) of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Atherley-Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said that it was a fair assumption of the hon. and learned

Gentleman that the landed property of the New River Company which remained after the new board took over that part of their undertaking which was required would be increased in value, but whether it would be right that there should be any deduction for the value of that estate was another matter. There could be no doubt whatever that this question, in whole or in part, would come before the arbitrators, and they had full powers to decide whether any allowance should be given or not.

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES said that under these circumstances he begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. LOUGH, on behalf of the hon. Member for Lichfield, moved—

"In page 5, line 28, after the word 'secured,' to insert, 'provided that the Water Board shall have reasonable access to all such books, accounts, or documents as relate to the undertaking of the New River Company purchased by the Water Board.'"

Mr. WALTER LONG said that that was secured by Clause 42.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said that the shares of the New River Company carried with them the peculiar capacity of carrying a vote, and he wished to raise that question at this point.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 8, after the word 'passed,' to insert 'provided always that such shares shall not be deemed to be freehold property for the purposes of the Parliamentary or any other franchise.'"—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. GRANT LAWSON said that this was not a Bill dealing with the Parliamentary franchise, but dealing with the transfer of an undertaking from one public body to another. He submitted, as a point of order, that the Amendment was inadmissible.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said it was not in order on this Bill to alter the Parliamentary franchise.

Mr. HALDANE said, on the point of order, that it was well known that shares in the New River Company were an exception to the ordinary rule that shares were personal estate; they were real estate. Therefore he submitted that it was open to the Committee to deal with these shares under this Bill as an anomaly in the law, and that it was right to make this change.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that it was not competent within the scope of the Bill to deal with the franchise.

Mr. HALDANE said that they should not be dealing with any question of the franchise, but with the nature of hereditaments which, by virtue of the peculiar character attached to them, had carried the franchise against the general rule. If it were necessary to put it in any clear form, that could be done by altering the Amendment, and by saying, after line 33, "shall continue to be of the nature of land to the like extent, and in like manner, as hereinbefore, except so far as to carry any privileges with regard to voting which would not attach to personal estate."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) said that the shares of the New River Company at present carried a vote because they were real property. That was to say, any share or portion of a share, in the New River Company gave a person who held it an interest in the land covered by water. That interest was to be transferred to the Water Board. This Clause merely dealt with what was substituted for that interest in the land. The words of the Amendment were altogether alien to the matter with which the Committee were dealing.

*Mr. CORRIE GRANT said that the Attorney General's argument was the strongest which could be used in favour of his Amendment. The shareholders of the New River Company owned land covered by water, and because of that they had a vote. But now it was proposed to transfer that land to the Water Board, and yet they were to keep the vote.

*The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said the Amendment was in order.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT said he had, on the point of order, stated his argument. He contended that the shareholders, having parted with the land to the Water Board, ought not to continue to have the vote.

COLONEL BOWLES said he could not see how the franchise would remain after the transfer of the undertaking of the New River Company to the Water Board, as the shares would become Water Stock, and he deeply regretted it, because the shareholders were mostly electors of his own Division.

MR. WALTER LONG said that nobody suggested for an instant that the right to vote as now enjoyed by the shareholders of the New River Company would be transferred to the members of the new Water Board. But when they dealt, in the way suggested by the Amendment, with the franchise in a Bill for a totally different purpose, it was, as the Attorney General had pointed out, very dangerous. He believed that the words of the Amendment were unnecessary, and he doubted whether they ought to be inserted; but if the hon. and learned Member would allow the matter to remain over till the Report stage, he would consult with the Attorney General and see what could be done.

MR. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) said that the Amendment was an attack on the ownership vote. When the water undertaking of the New River Company was conveyed to the Water Board, there would be still qualifying property left to the shareholders of the Company which ought to be entitled to the franchise. The Amendment was an underhand way of shutting out the 40s. freeholder.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT said he would be very glad to leave the question in the hands of the President of the Local Government Board, and he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH said he begged to move, on behalf of the hon. Member for Torquay: "In page 7, line 9, after the word 'shall,' to insert 'at their own cost.'" He thought this was a particularly reasonable proposal.

MR. WALTER LONG said that this question had been very carefully considered by the Joint Select Committee. The New River Company had asked to insert words in the Bill which would compel the Water Board to pay their costs, but this had been keenly opposed; and the decision of the Joint Select Committee was that this was a question which ought to be left to the arbitrators.

MR. LOUGH said, upon that understanding, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clause 10:—

(5.35.) DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said the right hon. Gentleman would see, from the general scope of this Clause, that the words he proposed by his Amendment to leave out of this Clause relating to the Staines Reservoirs were mere surplusage, because the claim for any expenditure the companies made would be left in.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 8, to leave out from 'for,' to 'any,' in line 10."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said this was one of those cases for which a Bill of this kind was invariably sent to a Committee upstairs. This case had been very carefully considered before that Committee. Although it was very difficult to imagine what claims would be made with regard to the Staines reservoirs, all this Clause did was to say that any rights the Company had at the present time they should be able to claim before the arbitrators. Under all the circumstances he should be very sorry to take these words out.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was very glad to hear the words of the right hon. Gentleman, because there were no rights under the Staines Reservoirs Act. Under the circumstances it seemed to him that these words were unnecessary, and in fact it would be dangerous to put them in the Clause.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn

Clause 10 was agreed to.

Clause 11:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 39, after the word 'accordingly,' to add 'and not only to the parts so supplied, but also to the remainder of that district, except the portion supplied by the East London Waterworks Company.'"—(*Mr. Joseph Howard.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said all this Amendment did was to make it perfectly clear that when the Water Board supplied the area in the urban district of Tottenham, at present supplied by the New River Company and the Urban District Council, it should also supply all the remainder except the part supplied by the East London Water Company. He hoped the Committee would accept it.

MR. LOUGH did not think the Committee ought to consent to this proposal. The Tottenham district was at present supplied by three Water Companies. Tottenham's object in coming in under this Bill was obvious; it would secure a very great reduction in the price of its own water supply, because the Tottenham Company charged a far higher price for its water than the East London Water Company or the New River Company. But this new Water Board was going to buy up the Tottenham district supply on the basis of its present price, and in return for that it should be secured in all the privileges which the Tottenham district enjoyed. This Amendment was brought forward to prevent them succeeding to these rights of the East London Water Company. Why should the new Water Board be bound to reduce their charges to the limit of the New River Company rates? The new Water Board was compelled by this Bill to treat the Tottenham district not as the Tottenham Company or the East London Water Company would have treated it. They were compelled to take the lowest scale of charges, which was that of the New River Company. The Water Board should not be treated in this way. It ought to be allowed to succeed to the rights of the Company. This Amendment was unfair to the Water Board, because it would compel them to pay the higher price and charge on the lower scale. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider this matter and allow the Clause to remain as it was.

MR. JOSEPH HOWARD (Middlesex, Tottenham): This Amendment has been on the Paper ever since early in the summer.

MR. LOUGH: It is a very wrong thing indeed.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 12 stand part of the Bill."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

MR. LOUGH expressed the opinion that this Clause ought not to be rushed through like this. It illustrated exactly the principle upon which the right hon. Gentleman treated all the outer areas. So far as he could see, the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to do nothing that London wanted, but everything for the urban and rural districts. Clause 12 dealt with Richmond and Croydon, and the proposal was that water should be supplied to those places in bulk. Why should not this provision with regard to these places be made general to all the urban districts?

MR. WALTER LONG said the proposal in the Clause, by which the new Water Board were relieved of the obligation of supplying Richmond, Croydon, Cheshunt, and Ware, was in conformity with the recommendation of Lord Llandaff's Commission, and had been approved by the Joint Committee He had only heard one opinion as to the justice of the proposal.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) pointed out that under Clause 13 it would be possible for outside areas to abandon their present systems of supply and compel the Board to supply water in bulk. That was obviously unjust. If these bodies cut themselves adrift they ought to be compelled to stand by their decision, or, if they wanted relief, to apply to Parliament for it. It seemed to him, therefore, that if Clause 12, as defined by the right hon. Gentleman, were passed, the conditions under which these bodies could obtain water in bulk would have to be modified

MR. HUDSON (Hertfordshire, Hitchin) was understood to point out that when these authorities to which reference had been made originally applied to the New River Company for a supply of water it was absolutely refused. They therefore set up at great expense waterworks of their own. All they now asked was that in the event of the new water authority draining their wells dry they should have a right to be supplied with water in bulk at a reasonable price. That was simply common fairness.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that if these outside boroughs had supported the County Council six years ago in its desire to secure the water supply and to obtain a new source of supply in Wales, there would have been a sufficient supply to enable the Council now to be generous. He was inclined to think that those authorities had been pursued by a nemesis, and that they would not now get the water they wanted.

MR. HALSEY (Hertfordshire, Watford) reminded the hon. Gentleman that the Members for Hertfordshire had unanimously supported the County Council in regard to its Welsh scheme.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 13:—

MR. LOUGH said the object of the Amendment he desired to move was to place the supply of water in bulk on some intelligible and consistent basis. In July last the President of the Local Government Board said, in effect, that he would not compel the Board to supply water in bulk anywhere. This Clause, however, compelled the Board to supply water in bulk to Croydon, Richmond, Cheshunt and Ware, and certain rural districts. The Government ought to pursue some definite plan in the matter, and if they did a thing in one place they should be prepared to do it in another. His Amendment would enable other urban districts to make the same arrangements with the Board as were made by the particular districts named. No explanation had been given of why this severance was permitted, especially in the rural districts, where it would be extremely expensive and not very useful. He, therefore, begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 9, to leave out the second word 'the,' and insert the word 'any.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'the' stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said the effect of the Amendment would be to extend the provisions of the Clause to all the urban districts outside London. That was the policy of severance—a policy which had been discussed before Royal Commissions and both inside and outside the House, and which for reasons he need not again go into had long ago been abandoned as a practical method of dealing with the London water question. The cases of Croydon, Richmond, Cheshunt and Ware stood by themselves; they desired to be taken out, and no objection was urged against it. The case with regard to the rural districts was quite different. It was felt there that while it might be necessary to give a supply in bulk it was undesirable to bring them in, because in the majority of the rural districts within the water area there were only a small number of consumers supplied by the existing Water Companies. To have given them representation on the new Board because of those few consumers would have made that body even bigger than was now proposed, and unnecessarily add to the difficulties of its work. He hoped the Committee would adhere to the plan of the Clause.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that, while it was true the Royal Commission did not see its way to recommend severance, it should be remembered that certain outside areas, through their counsel, represented a desire to have power under the Bill to sever themselves at their discretion. The Joint Committee declined to insert such a Clause, but the bodies had carefully reserved their right to introduce Bills for that object. That showed that the County Councils of some of the outside areas were in favour of severance, and he could not understand the illogical position of allowing this severance to some who had not applied for it, while refusing it to others who were anxious to have it. The Bill would set up great anomalies in regard to the question of supplying in bulk, and he should vote for the Amendment.

(5.58.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 139; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 615.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H'nry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boustield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William

Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh'm
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson. John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow

Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones L.
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles

Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal

Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Fenwick, Charles

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Levy, Maurice
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron, Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tomkinson, James
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lough and Captain Norton.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 10, to leave out 'or,' and insert 'and may if required.'"—(*Mr. Bousfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'of' stand part of the Clause."

(6.10.) MR. WALTER LONG said he thought the proposal of the Government was the only practical one to meet the difficulty, and he could not accept the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

DR. MACNAMARA, in moving to omit the words, "only the council of any rural district, situate wholly or partly within the limits of supply," said that surely representation through the County Council of a rural area was as effective as these eight urban areas which were to be represented by one special representative on the Water Board.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 10, to leave out from the word 'Ware,' to the second word 'supply' in line 11."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said he was afraid that he had nothing to add to what he had said, because the Amendment raised practically the same point. This question had not been discussed to the same extent as many other questions before the Royal Commission, but it was considered before a Committee upstairs, and a proposal like this Amendment was rejected.

DR. MACNAMARA asked if the right hon. Gentleman wished to suggest that any of the rural areas asked for this power before the Joint Committee.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not wish to convey that impression; but the question was raised and discussed by the Joint Committee.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was afraid that if this Clause stood in its present form it would lead to great complications, difficulty, and expense. The right hon. Gentleman had said that these rural districts were not represented, but he held they were as much represented as some of the urban districts. They were represented, practically directly, through their County Councils. To that extent they would be represented quite as well as the urban districts in cases where eight or nine had to combine together to elect one man. He could only come to the conclusion that the Joint Committees were particularly adverse to this, because they saw the difficulties and complications that would arise from it. Under these circumstances he would support his hon. friend.

MR. LOUGH thought that hon. Members opposite ought to see the extraordinary position this Clause was putting the Water Board in. The Board was not only compelled to supply those people, but if they had any complaint against the Board they were not to come to the Board direct. They were to go straight to the Local Government Board, which was to decide without, so far as he could see, giving the Water Board the chance of saying what it would do for them. The only argument given in support of that was that they had not got separate representation, but they had representation through the County Council. These rural districts would be able to put the Water Board to any expense they pleased, and the Board would have scarcely any right to expostulate. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to say whether, with the view of expediting matters, he would give the question further consideration. Perhaps if it were left over to be dealt with on the Report stage there might be a satisfactory compromise arrived at.

MR. JOHN BURNS supported the proposal of his hon. friend. Why should these rural districts have more representation than they were entitled to through the representation they would now have by the County Councils? It seemed to him that if they granted this representation, many districts now governed by Rural Councils would press the Water Board to extend the area of supply on purpose to put members on the Board. They should have no such encouragement held out to them. They should be told that if they had any complaint to make, the proper channel of communication was through their member. If the Clause as worded was carried, it was possible that the Board would have to be enlarged to a hundred members by the addition of representatives of all the rural districts round London.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said this was a much more important question than appeared at first sight. It was part of a very large subject. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the proposal. He thought it would be preferable to make the inclusion of the Rural Councils' representative optional, so that each case could be considered on its merits.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said that this was a matter of extreme importance to some of the districts in Hertfordshire which he had the honour to represent. He did not wish to go into details at present, but he hoped the Government would adhere to the Clause as it stood.

(6.28.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 140; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 616.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusH'nryEden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, RtHonJA (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, RtHnLordG (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent, F'versh'm
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, RtHn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert

Mr. Lough.

Saunderson, Rt Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxeth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dunn, Sir William
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rigg, Richard
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tomkinson, James
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. John Burns and Mr. Corrie Grant.

Question proposed, "That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

MR. LOUGH thought the right hon. Gentleman would admit that very little had been said upon this Clause; in fact less could hardly have been said. Only two points had been dealt with, upon one of which the Committee had just divided. The principle which appeared to operate in the mind of the right hon. Gentleman was that the rural districts were not represented, many of them were very inadequately represented, and with regard to those such representation as they had was made the pretext for not giving severance in this matter. It seemed to him to be the most extraordinary series of anomalies to give severance to Croydon with a population of 153,000, and to deny it to West Ham with a population of 267,000, and to Willesden with a population of 217,000. He did not know whether hon. Gentlemen thought it worth while to divide against the Clause, but in his opinion it was a very bad one.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 14:—

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said he had read this Clause over and over again, and had failed to understand why it was proposed to give to the county of Hertford privileges which Kent, Surrey and Essex did not possess under this Bill. He thought some explanation should be given with regard to this before the Clause was passed, and therefore he begged to move to leave out Clause 14.

Amendment proposed, "In page 11; to leave out Clause 14."—(*Mr. Cremer.*)

Question proposed, "That Clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said the Clause was undoubtedly an exceptional one, but the case of Hertfordshire was exceptional. The case for that county had been put before the Joint Committee and carefully considered, and this Clause was the result. This was one of the precise cases for which the Private Bill Procedure was intended, to give to people whose property was attacked, or whose rights were assailed, power to put their case before the tribunal and have justice done them. Practically all the water of Hertfordshire was taken for the supply of London, and there were many districts where the people literally did not know where to turn for water. It was owing to the particularly heavy demand made upon Hertfordshire for water by London that these privileges were granted to them.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he should like to confirm what the right hon. Gentleman had said. The way in which

Hertfordshire had been depleted by the Water Companies was scandalous, from fishing as well as from the other points of view. He thought far too much water had been taken from the county.

Mr. LOUGH said the Clause was an illustration of how advisable it would have been to have adopted the suggestion of the London County Council and brought water for London from Wales or elsewhere—when they would have had plenty of water to return to those counties which had been depleted. Never, in his opinion, was such an extraordinary provision made in an Act of Parliament. They were to give the Hertford Council all the water they required, and there was to be no check of any kind. His hon. friend, no doubt, wanted all these streams filled up, because he went to Hertfordshire to fish, and had, perhaps, got that interesting experience of fishing there which he had lately given to the world. But these special provisions might be carried too far, and hon. Gentlemen ought to think of this again, and think a little about London. If it went to a division he should vote against it.

Mr. CREMER: I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15:—

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY said this Clause contemplated that any deficiency of the water fund should be made good by a grant in aid, but it made it good in a most fantastic and extraordinary fashion. It excluded certain parts of the water area from all liability for the deficiency; it applied only to those hereditaments supplied with water, and it was levied on the whole of the parish, although only a part of the parish was supplied. He ventured to say such a proceeding would produce the greatest inequality. The extremes of inequality of rating would range from ·06 to ·84 of a penny in the £. Another singular result of this Clause was the way in which they were to deal with the hereditaments to be supplied with water. The rating value was not considered to be the real criterion of what the property ought to pay as a water rate, to arrive at the sum total of the various hereditaments in the various localities, according to which the calculation was to be made. All these places supplied by the Water Board were lumped together and included in a general levy, which would lead to very grave inequalities indeed. The collection was to be made as if it were a general district rate, but a large number of properties paid only a quarter of the general district rate. He thought the deficiency ought to be made good by an increase in the water rate, and that being so, he begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 3, to leave out all the words after 'be,' to end of sub-Section, and insert 'met by a uniform increase in the water rates charged for domestic supply.'"—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said the hon. Member was wrong in supposing that the incidence of this rate would be, entirely, the general rate. That would be so, no doubt, so far as outside London was concerned, but inside London the incidence would be the poor-law valuation. A different incidence would apply to outside London. When the Bill was first introduced, the Government suggested that in both inner and outer London the incidence should be on the general poor rate, but that was changed by the Joint Committee to the general district rate. The hon. Gentleman's suggestion to give the Water Board a power to increase the water charges would be to effect such a change as to completely alter the whole scheme of the Bill. Supposing it was found necessary for the Water Board at a later period to go to Wales for water for the supply of London, it would be most unfair that such a charge should not fall upon London as a whole.

Mr. WHITELEY begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 15, page 12, line 4, to leave out 'parishes,' and insert 'metropolitan boroughs.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.) said the object of the Amendment he now proposed to move was to provide that all the areas supplied should be liable to the deficiency rate. That was only natural and right. It included in all thirteen districts, of which four were urban and five were rural. Among those urban districts they had such important growing districts as Hendon and Ilford, with an assessable value of £123,000 and £117,000 respectively. Of the rural districts the three most important were Bromley, Croydon and Dartford. Objection was taken that these outside districts had no representation, but they had sufficient representation through their County Councils to justify the contingency of taxation. If these districts were placed on the same basis as that on which inner London was placed, they would still enjoy important advantages. He also wished to know whether these districts, which did not run any risk of purchase, were to share in the equalisation. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed—

"'In page 12, line 5, after the word 'urban,' to insert the words 'and rural.'"—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he had already made a full statement on this subject at an earlier period. It was true that the rural districts would get the benefit of whatever work was done by the Water Board, and that they would not be liable for the rates. The reason was, there was a very small proportion in the area who were supplied, the water being, in fact, often found in those areas.

Mr. THOMAS LOUGH said the right hon. Gentleman's reply did not cover the position. The majority of the rural districts would be excluded from this Clause because they had no representation. The right hon. Gentleman had given severance in every case where he considered there were special circumstances, and he (Mr. Lough) thought that that concession should be given to all the rural districts. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to accept the Amendment.

(7.3.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 37; Noes, 136. (Division List No. 617.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Rigg, Richard
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

Tellers for the Ayes—
Mr. Lough and Captain Norton.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer

Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A G H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Howard, John Kent (Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col, Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Maconochie, A. W.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Amendments made—

"In page 12, line 11, to leave out 'parish'; in page 12, line 14, to leave out 'parishes municipal'; in page 12, line 17, to leave out 'a parish in'; in page 12, lines 23 and 24, to leave out '(if necessary) be raised out of, and as part of the local rate; that is to say,' and insert 'be paid'; in page 12, line 25, after 'city,' to insert 'out of'; in page 12, line 26, to leave out 'a parish in'; in page 12, lines 26 and 27, to leave out 'the general rate,' and insert 'as part of the expenses incurred by the council thereof'; in page 12, line 28, after 'district' to insert 'out of.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) said that both sides were agreed that, at the earliest opportunity, the water rate over the area of supply should be equalised. In order to give the President of the Local Government Board an opportunity to make a statement on the point, he begged to move the Amendment, a copy of which he had handed in.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 35, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words, 'The Water Board shall exercise their power of charging water rates in such manner as to produce within three years from the appointed day throughout the limits of supply an equalisation of such rates as between all parts of the area, both in respect of charges on rateable value of the premises supplied and special services rendered.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said that sub-Section 6 was inserted before the Joint Committee at the instance of the City of Westminster, whose action had been most adversely commented upon. He was bound to say, however, that he thought those adverse comments were hardly justified, seeing that the city of Westminster had to bear a very large portion of the cost, whether they were dealing with the water charges or the general rates of the Metropolis. All parties agreed that as speedily as it could be brought about, there must be a readjustment of the water charges in London having for its main object their equalisation. One of the most unfortunate difficulties in connection with the existing condition of the water supply was that for the same quantity and quality of water you might have to pay one price on one side of a street and a totally different price on the other. That was an unsatisfactory feature which it was hoped the new authority would be able to alter. But while everybody was agreed that an equalisation of the water charges was desirable it ought also to be agreed that that equalisation should not be made at the expense of the general ratepayer of the Metropolis. Nobody would suggest that, unless unavoidable, the general rates of the Metropolis should be brought to the aid of the water supply. It might be necessary to deal with the matter at a later period by some equalisation of rates system, but all that was required at present was to make it clear in the Bill that there should not be an equalisation scheme at the cost of the general rates. Sub-Section (6) as it stood would be capable of a much wider interpretation, and he would suggest its amendment in two or three points, so that it should read—

> "The Water Board shall not, until Parliament otherwise determine, reduce the rates charged for the supply of water below those in force during the quarter ending the twenty-fourth day of June, 1902, unless the Board are satisfied that such a reduction would not cause a deficiency in the Water Fund."

As the Committee would see, that was a material alteration of the wording, and he proposed further to add—

> "But the Water Board shall, within three years after the appointed day, introduce into Parliament a Bill providing for uniform scales and charges applicable throughout the limits of supply."

He thought that, on the whole, would fairly meet the difficulties of the case. The Board would have a reasonable time in which to ascertain what it would be possible for them to do, and the case of Westminster and other heavily rated parts of the Metropolis would be amply protected, inasmuch as the obligation to bring in a Bill would secure to them the opportunity of presenting their case before any arrangement was made. He hoped these alterations would meet the views of Members on both sides of the House.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought that, so far as he could follow it, the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman would meet with general acceptance. As he understood it, the Board within three years would have to introduce a Bill opposing a uniform scale of charges. One of the great evils of the present system—indeed, one of the main reasons for this Bill—was the inequality of the charges. That London should be treated as a unit was the basis of the Bill, and on the ground that uniformity of charge would be secured he welcomed the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. BIGWOOD (Middlesex, Brentford) said the people of Middlesex would be very grateful for the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman, as one of the things they suffered from was this inequality of charges.

MR. CORRIE GRANT asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had also had before him the question of the inequality of assessments? At present much doubt existed amongst rating authorities as to who had the right of raising the question. Some years ago the London County Council attacked the question of the inequality of assessments, but after taking a great deal of evidence and going before the Court of Appeal, it was decided that the County Council had no *locus standi* in the matter. It might be reasonable to give the Water Board the right to interfere in the question.

MR. WALTER LONG was afraid that the Amendment dealing with the point suggested by the hon. Member would involve an alteration of the law of valuation, and, as such, be ruled out of order. He was advised, however, that the Water Board, being ratepayers in the area concerned, would have the ordinary ratepayers' right to appear before the assessment authority and to appeal to Quarter Sessions.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON thanked his right hon. friend for the concession he had promised to make, and asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. LOUGH said the question was not so simple as it looked. A revolutionary change was proposed to be made in the Clause. He desired to know whether, under the equalisation, the high rate charged in some places would be reduced to the low rate charged in others, or *vice versâ*. On a £20 house in Islington the water rate was 24s., whereas in Camberwell on a similar house it was £3 7s. If Camberwell were lowered to the level of Islington, Camberwell would be very grateful, but if Islington were raised to the level of Camberwell, there would be great complaints from Islington.

It being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON WATER (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 15:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 35, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words, 'The Water Board shall exercise their powers of charging water rates in such manner as to produce within three years from the appointed day throughout the limits of supply an equalisation of such rates as between all parts of the area, both in respect of charges on ratable value of the premises supplied and special services rendered.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(9.0.) MR. LOUGH, resuming, said he desired to know whether it was the intention of the Government to effect the equalisation which was to take place by means of the water charges, and whether it was intended that no call could be made on the rates under any circumstances whatever. He thought it would be absolutely necessary to insert in the Bill some provisions wider than those suggested by the President of the Local Government Board, for if equalisation was to take place at the expense of the water consumer alone, it must be unsatisfactory. What was really needed was an equalisation of the rates, which varied greatly in different districts. For instance, in Hackney the charge for a £30 house was £1 4s. and for a £45 house £2 10s., while in Bermondsey the figures were £3 7s. and £4 6s. respectively. In provincial cities and towns the charges were much lower.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said the Corporation of the City of Westminster had been somewhat unduly abused for getting this Clause inserted in the Bill. They had acted not only on behalf of Westminster, but on behalf of other areas in London. The Clause was agreed to unanimously by the Joint Committee, which had expressed itself satisfied that Westminster, acting on behalf of the various boroughs, had made out a good case. The Clause had been condemned by the London County Council because they had alleged that by it equalisation of rates was prevented, but, as a matter of fact, if absolute equalisation of rates came into operation the charge upon the districts west of the Lea and north of the Thames would be increased in order to reduce the charge in the other parts of the Metropolis. It must be perfectly plain to everybody who had studied this question that they could not go on charging on a different basis in different areas. There must be a uniform scale of charges throughout London, and it seemed to him that the course the Government were pursuing in leaving matters as they were for three years and then directing that the Water Board should bring in a Bill to make the charges uniform was a very wise one.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments were proposed by MR. WALTER LONG, and agreed to, which left sub-Sections 6 and 7 as follows—

"(6) The Water Board shall not, until Parliament otherwise determine, reduce the rates charged for the supply of water below those in force during the quarter ending the twenty-fourth day of June one thousand nine-hundred and two, unless the Board are satisfied that such a reduction would not cause a deficiency in the water fund; but the Water Board shall, within three years after the appointed day, introduce into Parliament a Bill providing for uniform scales of charges applicable throughout the limits of supply. (7) Within three years after the appointed day the Water Board may prepare and publish in the *London Gazette* a scheme enabling their charges for the supply of water to be collected together with any local rate. Any local or rating authority within the limits of supply may transmit to the Local Government Board their objections to any such scheme within forty days after the scheme is published in the *London Gazette.*"

MR. LOUGH moved a further Amendment that the equalisation should be secured on a scale not exceeding that of the West Middlesex Water Company, and that the deficit thereby caused should be made good out of the county rate.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) had on the Paper an Amendment to add the following sub-Section:—

"(7) Within three years after the appointed day the Water Board shall prepare a scheme enabling their assessments and charges for water supplied for domestic and trade purposes to be assessed, levied and collected half-yearly to the thirtieth September and thirty-first March respectively, together with the general, poor, or general district rate. Each constituent authority and rating authority within the area of the Water Board shall transmit their objections to the Local Government Board within forty days after the scheme is published in the *London Gazette.* The Local Government Board shall insert such modifications as they deem necessary to the scheme, and, after confirmation, fix the time for it to come into operation, and shall prescribe the form of rate book and demand note, and shall make such necessary or proper regulations for the purpose, which shall have effect as if they were enacted in this Act.'

The hon. Member said the Amendment explained itself but he would ask leave of the Committee to alter the word "shall" in the first line to the word "may," and to withdraw the last paragraph, having ascertained from the authorities that the Local Government Board had no power to enforce the provision set forth in the last paragraph of the Amendment. Though there was much to be said in support of the Amendment he felt that it would be unnecessary for him to go at length into the subject.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 40, at end, to add, 'Within three years after the appointed day the Water Board may prepare a scheme enabling their assessments and charges for water supplied for domestic and trade purposes to be assessed, levied, and collected half-yearly to September 30 and March 31 respectively, together with the general, poor, or general district rate. Each constituent authority and rating authority within the area of the Water Board shall consider and transmit their objections to the Local Government Board within forty days after the scheme is published in the *London Gazette.*'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. GRANT LAWSON said that a similar proposal stood in the name of the hon. Member for Haggerston as a new Clause, and, as it seemed to meet the wishes of both sides of the Committee, the Government were prepared to accept it.

MR. CREMER said it was several months since he put down on the Paper a new Clause in terms identical with the Amendment which the hon. Member for Hoxton had just moved. The hon. Member for Hoxton had done him the honour to borrow in every word his Clause, and if imitation was the most sincere form of flattery he supposed that he might consider himself very much flattered in having his new Clause moved as an Amendment to Clause 15. It seem to him that the proposal of the hon. Member for South Hackney was not at all necessary, for the right hon. Gentleman seemed to have swallowed them all up. He thanked the President of the Local Government Board for the spirit in which he had met them on this question, because this matter appeared to him to be the most vital principle of the Bill. What they were all anxious for was to secure equality of assessment in the Metropolis. The Amendment secured this object, and in three years time they would have that which they all hoped to have, namely, something like an equality of assessment throughout the Metropolis. In regard to the uniformity of collection, that was not met by the Amendment, and he asked the right. hon. Gentleman to consider whether it was not possible to introduce something into the Clause that would secure uniformity of collection. At the present time they had a rate collector, a water rate collector, and a collector of King's taxes. In some boroughs they managed to collect all these taxes with one man, and he did not see why it should not be compulsory on the new water authority that one collector should collect all the taxes to which he had referred. He thought the right hon. Gentleman could easily achieve this object by adding a few words to this Clause. Personally he thanked the President of the Local Government Board for the graceful concession he had made to them. and if there was anything calculated to make this Bill popular he believed it was the concession made upon this subject.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said the Amendment which was now before the House was placed on the Paper not a few weeks ago, as the hon. Member for Haggerston had alleged, but some months ago.

Mr. CREMER: Yes, but long after my new Clause appeared on the Paper.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said that the reason that his Amendment took precedence to that of the hon. Member for Haggerston was that he had taken the trouble to conform to the Rules of the House, while the hon. Member had placed his Amendment before the House without taking the trouble to consult the ordinary practice of the House, and therefore the hon. Member came last on the list.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was glad that the Government had accepted the principle of the Amendment. He wished to know if the right hon. Gentleman accepted the words as they stood on the Paper. His hon. friend the Member for Haggerston had this Amendment on the Paper many months ago, and it seemed to him something like kleptomania that the hon. Member for Hoxton should now put this Amendment forward and claim it as his own.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: Will the hon. Member say when my Amendment first appeared on the Paper?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said all he knew was that his hon. friend's Amendment was on the Paper some time before the one which had now been proposed, and that was enough for his argument. It was a most extraordinary coincidence that the hon. Member for Hoxton should have adopted the same words.

Captain JESSEL said that whoever might have been the father of this particular Clause, he congratulated him upon it, because he thought a great deal of money would be saved by it.

Mr. Cremer.

It seemed to him that there was no difficulty in the matter whatsoever, because other towns had adopted this method of procedure. He thought the hon. Member, or perhaps the hon. Members, who claimed this proposal might both be congratulated upon having this Amendment on the Paper.

Mr. CREMER said he should like to ask whether the proposal contained in the Amendment as regarded uniformity of collection was contained in the Amendment now before the House upon which they were going to vote.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that what the Government accepted was the Amendment as originally proposed with the omission of the last sub-paragraph, and the substitution of the word "may" for "shall." The hon. Member was aware that there were practical difficulties in the way of any compulsory uniformity. They all desired that there should be uniformity of collection and an avoidance of the constant repetition of collections for rates and taxes. As the hon. Gentleman was aware, there were practical difficulties in the way, because the charges did not always fall upon the same individual, and, in the second place, it might not be convenient, and might actually be more expensive to have to employ the collectors of the local authorities. Uniformity, however, was made possible, although not compulsory, by the Amendment of his hon. friend.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. LOUGH said he desired to move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Swansea. At the present time the Water Companies did give exemptions, and he admitted that some exemptions should be made in the case of persons who did not use much water. This, however, could be settled by making one charge for all dwellings and for all dwelling-houses and shops combined, and for workshops which were separated. In Manchester and all the great cities these exemptions were made one uniform charge throughout the whole area. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to accept this proposal.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 40, at end, add, 'In levying the water rate the Water Board shall not give preference or exemption to any person or property, unless such preference or exemption be extended to all persons and property similarly situated.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*COLONEL BOWLES said that he did not think there was any necessity for this Amendment, and he would remind the Committee that it was to the London hospitals that the Water Companies gave these preferential rates.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was not alleged that the concessions made by Water Companies to particular consumers of water were the result of any collusion between them and the users of water. Hitherto he thought as a rule the charges had been that the Water Companies were too exorbitant in the demands they have made upon the consumers, but it should not be forgotten that the Water Companies were ordinary commercial concerns. The Water Companies have made these charges in the past because they believed it was in their interest commercially to charge in this fashion. It would be the duty of the Water Board to consider whether they should continue this system or not. If they thought it was in the long run to their interests commercially of course they would do so. Did the hon. Member opposite mean by his argument that the Water Companies in the past had discriminated in their charges between certain ratepayers? He thought in the past the companies had done their best to make profit. Surely they ought to give the Water Board at least the same power and discretion as the Water Companies had enjoyed in the past, but as a matter of fact this Amendment would place the Water Board in a worse position than the companies were at the present time.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON thought that, if the Attorney General would tell the Committee whether or not these words were really necessary, the discussion would come to an end.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16:—

*SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said the object of the Amendment he wished to move was to abolish the Sinking Fund. He thought a Sinking Fund was unnecessary and would press very heavily upon the ratepayers. He might say without exaggeration that the amount which would be necessary for the Sinking Fund would be about £300,000 a year. What was the object of levying this £300,000 a year upon the present ratepayers of London? The only object of establishing the Sinking Fund appeared to him to be that their grandchildren would be able to have water for nothing, because the capital charges would all be extinguished, and the only charge upon the future generation would be the actual charge for the maintenance of the water supply. He was aware that this was a commercial enterprise, but as far as he was aware, from the beginning of the world to the end of it, water would always be necessary, for no substitute could be found for it, and therefore if the works were kept in repair, and depreciation of machinery provided for, there would be no need for this Sinking Fund. It might be said that a fresh supply from such places as Wales, or from other parts of the country, might be necessary, but even in such a case the present supply would not cease to exist, and the new supply would be remunerative. This had been the case during the last twenty years. Water companies had extended their reservoirs, but nevertheless their incomes had always increased, and therefore he thought the establishment of the Sinking Fund was entirely unnecessary. It might be held that the municipalities would come down and require that their Sinking Fund should be abolished. He wished to point out that the difference between municipalities and an undertaking of this sort was very great. Municipalities spent money on sewers and town halls and streets, which were not remunerative and which deteriorated. As he desired that this Bill should be a success, and that it should not cast undue burdens upon the ratepayers, he hoped the Government would receive this proposal with favour.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, to line 29, leave out sub-Section (3)."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (3) stand part of the Clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG made an appeal to the hon. Baronet not to press this Amendment. His hon. friend had said that this was not a municipal undertaking, but a commercial one. He was not sure that that was necessarily the case. If he sought to differentiate between the two he would remind the hon. Baronet that in the commercial undertaking the people interested had not got the advantage of the rates behind them. In this particular concern the rates of London would be behind the Water Board. He asked the Committee to realise what they were doing. His hon. friend had stated that there was no precedent for this extraordinary commercial undertaking. Surely the hon. Baronet was aware that no municipality came to this House for powers to undertake gas or water supply, and to borrow money for that purpose without being called upon to create a Sinking Fund. A great concern was being initiated by this Bill for the greatest municipality in the world, namely, the Metropolis of London, and was this great Metropolis going to set for the first time an example of profligate municipal expenditure? A greater mistake could not be made. He was very reluctant to enter the list against the hon. Baronet in any financial dispute, but he did not think he had accurately described the effects of this provision. He did not think that the Sinking Fund would cost £300,000 a year, for at the outside he did not think it would be more than £200,000 or £250,000. He had not shown that this money would necessarily come out of the rates at all. The Bill provided that this fund was to be created by a gradual process, and it provided also for an extended period during which there would be no necessity to use the Sinking Fund, and he did earnestly appeal to the Committee, not from any motive of economy, or from the fear of throwing a burden on the rates, to sanction such a departure from sound municipal finance in the case of the new London Water Board. He did not think there was any necessity to make a call upon the rates to form this fund. There would be an interval of twenty years before they would have to deal with this question. By that time the Water Board would know what their position was, and they would know what was likely to be the pressure on the London ratepayers. He asked the Committee not to decide on this side issue a question which might be of far reaching importance not only to London, but to other parts of the country.

Amendment negatived. Clause 16 agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clause 18 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 19:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 6, to insert the words, 'and that the stamp duty charged on the Water Board for the purposes of The District Auditors Act, 1879, shall be such as the Treasury, after consulting with the Local Government Board, and having regard to the cost of the audit, may determine.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. LOUGH moved an Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for North Camberwell. As the new Board was a sort of municipal combination, he thought it was reasonable that the constituent authorities should have the right which the Amendment proposed to confer upon them.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 9, at end, to add, 'The constituent authorities shall have an independent right to be present at the audit of the accounts of the Board, and to appeal with regard thereto. Copies of the accounts shall be furnished to each of the constituent authorities who shall be entitled to make representations to the Local Government Board with regard thereto, and that Board shall be empowered to give directions to the Water Board on the subject.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "Those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said there was no necessity for the first part of this Amendment, because the local authorities would, of course, be represented at the Water Board. In regard to the second part he could not possibly assent to the proposal that copies of the accounts should be furnished to each of the constituent authorities. That was a proceeding which would involve a great deal of unnecessary labour and expense which would do no good to anybody.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 20, 21, and 22 agreed to.

Clause 23:—

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL moved to add the following to sub-Section (4) which provides for the payment to the Arbitration Commissioners and to any officer or person appointed and employed under this section such salaries or remuneration as the Local Government Board may assign, "Provided always that before the amount of any such salaries or other remuneration is fixed the Water Board shall have an opportunity of submitting its views to the Local Government Board." It seemed to him a somewhat strange provision that the authority which was to pay the Commissioners and their employees should have no voice in determining the amount to be paid. It was contrary to the principle that where there was taxation there ought to be representation. This was a matter important not only in itself, but because it might be used afterwards as a precedent. Surely the salaries ought to be fixed by agreement between the Local Government Board and the Water Board.

Amendment proposed—

'In page 17, line 41, at end, to insert 'Provided always that before the amount of any such salaries or other remuneration is fixed, the Water Board shall have an opportunity of submitting its views to the Local Government Board.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped the hon. Gentleman would not think it necessary to press this Amendment. If there was one part of the Bill which had found general acceptance it was that dealing with the appointment of the arbitrators He thought they were all agreed that the names of the Commissioners were altogether beyond comment. Better men could not have been selected, and to suggest that in regard to the salaries or remuneration to be paid to them there should be some sort of consultation with the Water Board was to introduce a feature which was altogether undesirable. He believed that the three gentlemen who had agreed to undertake the duties of arbitrators would, if they had followed their own wishes, have preferred not to act in the matter. He ventured to say that there would be no difficulty whatever in fixing remuneration that would be reasonable.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON advised his hon. friend, after what the right hon. Gentleman had said, to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON moved to amend sub-Section (5), by leaving out all after "to," in line 2, to end of paragraph, and inserting "the ascertainment, determination, and declaration by them of the fair and reasonable value of each Metropolitan Water Company, and the court of arbitration in order to ascertain such value shall inquire into and shall consider all the circumstances of the case." He said some hon. Members, on the Opposition side of the House at all events, thought that the reference to the arbitrators was not sufficiently extended and open, inasmuch as it did not instruct them to deal with each company separately. Under the Clause they would be able to give a lump arbitration in regard to all or some of the companies together. He thought it ought to be made clear that each company should be taken on its own basis, and that each arbitration ought to refer to one company alone. The reference proposed did not necessarily enable the arbitrators to go into all the circumstances of the case. Not only should they be able to take into consideration anything favourable to the company, such as the condition of the main water supply and the state of the reservoirs, but they should also take into account questions of the likelihood of future liabilities had the undertaking remained in possession of the company. It was quite clear from the increase in the population in many parts, and from the deficiences in the water supply, that the Water Board would be involved in large capital expenditure, and that if matters were left as at present would fall on the companies. That was an element which ought to be taken into account in estimating the price at which the companies ought to be bought out. What he was afraid of in regard to the whole question of arbitration was that the Water Board would be very much prejudiced in stating their case before the arbitrators. The Board would have to get new officers who would not understand the work, as the officers of the water companies were to be taken over later on. Practically all the first-class counsel had already been engaged by the water companies, and the Water Board would be in a very prejudiced position. The fullest possible instructions ought to be given to the arbitrators to take every matter into account, so that it might not be said to them that such and such matters were excluded from the scope of the arbitration.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 18, line 2, to leave out all the words after the word 'to,' to the end of the sub Section, and insert the words 'the ascertainment, determination, and declaration by them of the fair and reasonable value of each Metropolitan Water Company, and the court of arbitration, in order to ascertain such value, shall inquire into and shall consider all the circumstances of the case.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he hoped the Amendment would not be pressed, for the reason that this Arbitration Clause was in some respects the most important in the Bill. It gave very large powers to the tribunal, which was most carefully constituted. The Clause was most carefully examined by the Joint Committee, and very much altered by them after they had heard all the *pros* and *cons*. He was not inclined to be drawn into a discussion as to what were the questions the arbitrators ought to consider. The London County Council had from the beginning made clear their views on this question, and there was no doubt what their views were He did not hesitate to say that if the London County Council had taken slightly different views on this question they would probably have had no difficulty in passing a Bill years ago. But this was the rock on which they had always split. They had always held that certain things ought to be taken into consideration against the companies, and the Government could not accept their view. He would earnestly ask the Committee not to put into this Clause words which were very vague, which might be interpreted either for or against the interests of the companies or of the general ratepayers, and which might mislead the arbitrators and place them in a position of considerable difficulty. At present they had full powers under Clause 23 to consider all the circumstances of the case, and give the award which they believed would be just as between the companies on the one hand and the London ratepayers on the other.

(10.13.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 117; Noes, 31. (Division List No. 618).

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell. Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Howard, John (Kent, Fav'rsham
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kemp, George
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant

Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J. (Walth'mstow
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn. A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John

Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
Pease, J. A. (Saffron, Walden
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)

Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Norton and Mr. Herbert Samuel.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 18, line 8, after 'settlement,' to add 'any of the constituent authorities shall be entitled to attend and give evidence before the Court of Arbitration.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. GRANT LAWSON said it was quite unnecessary that these words should be put in, and therefore he opposed the Amendment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the question really arose in reference to the London County Council. As the Bill was drawn up he gathered that the London County Council had no *locus standi* before the arbitrator. The Council had a mass of information on the questions to be determined, and efficient officers who could place that information before the Court. The object of the Amendment was to make it quite clear that the London County Council should not be ruled out as witnesses, and that they should be able, as a constituent authority, to give the evidence they desired.

MR. WALTER LONG said that the London County Council would not have a *locus standi* independently on their own account. The two parties to the arbitration would be the Water Board as the intending purchaser, and the Water Companies as the sellers. It would rest with the Water Board to call what witnesses they thought fit in support of their case. There would be on the Water Board ten members of the London County Council, and the additional numbers he hoped to add on the Report stage. Surely the presence of these members of the London County Council on the Water Board was sufficient security that if the Water Board required the evidence of the officials or members of the London County Council they would call them, and he had no doubt they would call them. He could not possibly assent to the Amendment.

Mr. LOUGH said he was very sorry that his hon. friend on the Front Opposition Bench had mentioned the London County Council, which seemed to have the same effect on the right hon. Gentleman opposite as a red rag on a bull. In moving the Amendment, he was not thinking of the London County Council, but of those unfortunate places in the outside areas which had only a tenth of one man to represent them on the Water Board and who would not be in the least able to affect the judgment of the Water Board, as to the calling of witnesses whom they might desire to have examined, in order to prevent some decision being come to that might be prejudicial to their locality. He thought the Amendment would have been accepted without discussion, and it ought to be pressed to a division.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, line 6, after the word 'any,' to insert the words, 'costs, charges, and.'"—(*Mr. Lyttelton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he trusted that the President of the Local Government Board would adhere to the words in the Bill. If there had been any strong reason for inserting the words of the Amendment that would have been done by the President of the Local Government Board in drafting the Bill.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped that the hon. Gentleman would recognise that the words of the Amendment were not unreasonable. They were introduced to make it clear that anything in the nature of cost and charges would be included as well as expenses, though he had no doubt that costs and charges incidental to the transfer would be included under the word "expenses."

Mr. Walter Long.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he thought that the Amendment should be resisted, if no better reason could be given for it. The apprehension they had in regard to those words was the same apprehension as they had in regard to the word "compensation," viz., that there was a desire on the part of certain persons to make it more and more clear that the arbitration was to be under the Lands Clauses Act. He really did not understand, after the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, how possibly the ands Clauses Act could apply.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he really thought that the hon. Gentleman was unduly alarmed. If the hon. Gentleman would look at sub-Section 8, Clause 23, he would see that this question of expenses was subject to the Court of Arbitration; while in sub-Section 9 the word used was "costs." It was desirable to remove the difference and prevent any injustice being done to the Water Companies. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had, all through this Bill, been extremely anxious that no injustice should be done, even to the Water Companies. All that was intended was that the legitimate costs of purchasing these properties for London by London should be borne by London, so that the legitimate expenditure in prosecuting the case of the Water Companies should not fall on the shareholders.

Dr. MACNAMARA said they had been told earlier in the day that the President of the Local Government Board would, under no circumstances, alter the decision of the Joint Select Committee.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that he had stated that Clause 10 was one of those Clauses that dealt with private interests. But there was no private interest in the Clause under discussion; it was a general principle.

Dr. MACNAMARA said that Clause 10 had reference to the Staines reservoirs; and the only argument used for it was that they should not touch this sacrosanct Clause because it had been argued before the Joint Select Committee. The Plunkett Committee had arrived at substantially the same phraseology as the Joint Select Committee in regard to Clause 23, sub-Section 8; and he asked the President of the Local Government Board not to depart from the principle he had laid down so admirably in the earlier part of the day. He sincerely hoped that in the interests of fair play there would be no modification of the words of the Clause.

*MR. LYTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington) said he should like to say a few words in justification of his Amendment. The word "expenses," in sub-Section 8, was intended to cover all the expenses which were incidental to a transfer. Everybody admitted that reasonable expenses should be given at the discretion of the arbitrators. The word "expenses" was claimed by the Government to have a most general and wide meaning, yet, as sub-Section 9 made special provision for costs, it might fairly be argued that the inference was that the word "expenses," in sub-Section 8, did not carry the significance intended. Any doubt on the matter would be removed by his Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24:—

CAPTAIN NORTON said that he wished to give the Water Board full power over its own affairs, and he saw no reason to bring in the Local Government Board to give its consent to the alienation of any land or buildings transferred to the Board.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, line 39, to leave out the words 'with the consent of the Local Government Board.'"—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said that there must be some outside authority to decide in such cases.

CAPTAIN NORTON asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 24 agreed to.

Clause 25 agreed to.

Clause 26:—

MR. LOUGH moved to leave out sub-Section 1. This sub-Section, he said, was a very curious one. If they gave the Local Government Board power, by reason of difference of population, to alter the representation of the Board, there might be, as he understood it, a great influx of members at one time, and at other times the number might be reduced. That would be a most unfortunate power to give to the Local Government Board, and there was no necessity for it. At present the representation was distributed in regard to population in the most extraordinary way the wit of man could conceive of. There were some districts with a population of 50,000 which had one member, and there were other districts, like Islington, which had a population of 340,000, and which had only one member. If there was a variation like that at present, why on earth should they give power to the Local Government Board to vary the representation on a very little variation of the population? Nothing was more inconvenient than that the number should be changed. The greatest controversy in connection with the Bill arose in connection with the number of the new Board; and it was even denounced by a right hon. Gentleman on the front Opposition Bench, when he was present. The only great assembly in the world where the number was subject to change was the Chamber of Deputies in Paris; and Frenchmen who had studied the question agreed that that was a very great drawback, and that it would be better that the number should be fixed, as in this House, and in other assemblies. He, therefore, hoped the Local Government Board would consider the matter at that stage.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 22, line 5, to leave out sub-Section (1)"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (1) stand part of the Clause."

(10.50.) MR. WALTER LONG said he did not think the matter was of a very important character; but the sub-Section would enable a change to be made by Provisional Order, which was the simplest course, if a change were desirable. He hoped, therefore, the hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said he should like to have it quite clear that if the Local Government Board had this power, it could only be exercised subject to ratification by Parliament.

MR. WALTER LONG said it would be exercised through a Provisional Order promoted by the Department.

MR. WHITMORE said he had every confidence in the present Local Government Board, but he could conceive a Board differently constituted: and all he wished was to impress that the exercise of this power should be subject to ratification by Parliament.

MR. WALTER LONG said that as it would be exercised by a Provisional Order, it would have to be confirmed by Parliament. However, if there was any suspicion in the matter, he would be quite willing to drop the sub-Section.

MR. LOUGH said he would really advise the Committee to give a little more thought to the matter. He had given substantial reasons against the sub-Section. The best rule for hon. Gentlemen opposite to follow was, whenever they saw the President of the Local Government Board in doubt, to support the withdrawal of the proposal. On the one or two occasions on which the right hon. Gentleman was pressed by hon. Gentlemen opposite, they had to retrace their steps.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would not lightly abandon the sub-Section.

Amendment negatived.

MR. LOUGH said he desired to move the omission of sub-Section 2. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had not had time to consider these points. These were the in-and-out Clauses, which enabled the President of the Local Government Board to increase or diminish the area of supply. That seemed to him to be a very drastic power, and one which it was not usual to give to the Local Government Board.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 22, line 15, to eave out sub-Section (2)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (2) stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not think it was a question of precedents. As was constantly stated during the debates on the Bill, provision was made enabling the Local Government Board to give a rural district, which had become an urban district, representation. The principle of the Bill was that London and the urban districts should constitute the new Board, but that if a rural district became an urban district, there should be power to include it. Similar powers were already enjoyed by the Local Government Board.

Amendment negatived.

Amendments made—

"In page 21, line 21, after 'general,' to insert 'or local.'" "In page 21, line 22, after 'companies,' to insert 'or any of them.'" "In page 21, line 22, to leave out 'them,' and insert 'those provisions.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 27:—

MR. CREMER said he wished to move the rejection of the Clause, in order to get an explanation from the Minister in charge of the Bill with reference to sub-Section (3). The Committee ought to discourage inquiries, and to prevent, as far as possible, the expenditure they entailed. It seemed to him that the expenses provided for witnesses at inquiries were very heavy. Sub-Section (3) provided that they should not exceed three guineas per day. Such a provision appeared to him to be calculated to induce officials of the Local Government Board to institute frivolous inquiries, which would lead to very considerable expenditure to be taken from the funds of the Water Board, and might also induce them to spin out an inquiry to the greatest possible length. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman to safeguard the interests of the ratepayers by preventing lavish expenditure on prolonged inquiries. If a man were to be paid three guineas a day, in addition to a salary, he might be induced to manufacture a grievance, and spin out an enquiry to investigate it.

MR. WALTER LONG said the explanation was very simple. In all cases where an inquiry was held by a Government Department, practically at the request of a locality, the rule was for the locality to pay the cost of the inquiry. The hon. Gentleman was mistaken in thinking that the three guineas a day was to be in addition to salary. It was merely the limitation of the charge which the Department could impose on the locality. The hon. Gentleman might rest assured that the inspectors were not in the least likely to prolong inquiries. They had more work than they could do at present, and were only too glad to finish an inquiry as soon as possible. The object of the sub-Section was that the Exchequer should not be called upon to pay for work undertaken on behalf of the localities.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he accepted what the right hon. Gentleman had said in reply to his hon. friend, and he would only ask him to discourage too many inquiries.

MR. WALTER LONG: Hear, hear!

Clause 27 agreed to.

Clauses 28, 29 and 30 agreed to.

Clause 31:—

MR. LOUGH said some explanation should be given of the Clause, which was that local authorities should be allowed to appear in Parliament in opposition to Bills promoted by the Water Board. That seemed to him to be an extraordinary provision. Surely the proper way would be for any authority represented on the Board to make its views felt through its representatives. The Clause appeared to him to be designed to stimulate expensive legal proceedings against the Board, and to encourage the various authorities represented on the Board not to proceed in an amicable way, but to develop a hostile feeling against it.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Clause was intended to prevent possible litigation hereafter. The right of the local authority to oppose legislation was protected, and the Clause was only introduced to make it quite clear that that right was not interfered with. Doubt might arise otherwise, which would lead to fruitless expense.

Clause 31 agreed to.

Clause 32:—

MR. LOUGH said they were now dealing, in five or six successive Clauses, with five or six different water companies around London. The areas of these companies overlapped the area to be controlled by the Water Board. Four or five of the companies, more voracious than the rest, came to the Local Government Board in the most audacious manner——

MR. WALTER LONG said the hon. Gentleman was mistaken. The companies did not come to the Local Government Board. All the Clauses were introduced before the Committee upstairs, and the only responsibility he had in connection with them was that he had undertaken to present the case in the House as it was presented to the Committee.

MR. LOUGH said the Bill was presented to the House by the Local Government Board, and no Clause could appear in it which was not approved by that Department. In the areas covered by these small companies, the companies to be purchased by the Water Board had also the right to supply. Three effects would be produced. In the first place, the Water Board would have to acquire and pay for the right of supply in these districts; secondly, having bought it, they would be prevented from using it; and thirdly, these little suburban companies would get rid of their most powerful competitor, and would be able to charge whatever price they pleased. The first Clause dealt with the Colne Valley Water Company, the district being also served by the West Middlesex Company. The West Middlesex Company supplied small houses at 13s. a year, whereas, for the same class of house, the Colne Valley Water Company charged 29s. Other prices were in the same proportion. The effect of the Clause would be that the Colne Valley Water Company would get rid of its strongest competitor; and the consumers would be left to its tender mercies. If the Clause were not deleted altogether, it should certainly be amended.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 23, line 12, at end, to add the words—'Provided that the sum to be paid by the Water Board to the Company of Proprietors of the West Middlesex Waterworks for their right to supply in the part of the parish of Hendon aforesaid shall be separately determined by the court of arbitration and shall be repaid to the Water Board by the Colne Valley Water Company.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St Albans) said the hon. Member had not stated the facts correctly. It would not be the case that the Colne Valley Water Company would be relieved of its most formidable competitor. The fact was that part of Hendon was so high, that the West Middlesex Company could not supply it, except at great expense for pumping, and by arrangement the Colne Valley Water Company supplied that district, and had supplied it ever since it got its Act.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON asked if the Committee was not to have an explanation from the Treasury Bench?

Mr. GRANT LAWSON said his explanation was identical with that which had been given by his right hon. friend. These Clauses were put in by the Grand Committee after hearing counsel on both sides, and going thoroughly into the matter. All the responsibility the Government had was that they promised to state the reasons to the House. There were certain agreements between the water companies within the area and water companies outside the area, and it did not seem fair that they should be broken to the detriment of the smaller companies; nor did it seem fair that the smaller companies should be compelled to pay again to the Water Board for rights to sell water which they had already acquired. The Water Board would only pay for what it got, and if the West Middlesex Company did not supply the particular district mentioned, then the Water Board would not have to pay for it.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he thought the hon. Member for St. Albans had not read the Amendment.

Mr. VICARY GIBBS said he had.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said it seemed to him that no injustice could be done if the Amendment were accepted, although, without it, injustice might be done. It was quite clear if the Water Board bought out the rights of the West Middlesex Company, and subsequently found chey were of no value, that there ought to be a repayment to the Water Board.

Mr. LOUGH said he did not think that counsel had been heard on the matter before the Committee upstairs. The Clauses were agreed Clauses, which the Local Government Board accepted at the request of these companies. The hon. Member for the St. Albans Division did not really touch on the matter at all. He indicated the difficulty of getting water up to Hendon, and suggested that the Colne Valley Water Company should be paid for it. He quite agreed, but did the hon. Member mean to say that the West Middlesex Company had no right to supply any part of the Colne Valley area? Of course they had that right. He suggested that the arrangement was a bad arrangement, but that, if it were desirable to maintain it, some Amendment should be introduced with regard to it. It was a foolish arrangement, which had not been properly considered, either before the Committee upstairs or in the House.

(11.13.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 29; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 619.)

AYES.

Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (Northants
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (Falkirk)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lough and Mr. John Burns.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W, (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hon A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Howard, John (Kent, Fav'rsh'm
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kemp, George
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J. (Walthams'w
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn. A. Gra'am (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Webb, Colonel Wm. George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taun'n
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther

Clause 32 agreed to.

Clause 33:—

MR. LOUGH said he wished to move the Amendment standing in his name. The case was even a more audacious one than that which they had just discussed. His proposal simply was that the sum to be paid by the Water Board to the proprietors of Lambeth Waterworks for their right to supply water within the statutory districts of the South-West Suburban Water Company should be separately determined and repaid to the Water Board. If the President of the Local Government Board would tell the Committee that nothing was paid for these rights, then he would not persevere with his Amendment; but if these rights were paid for, and if the Water Board were prevented from exercising them, he thought the Clause was an iniquitous one.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 23, line 22, at end, to add—'Provided that the sum to be paid by the Water Board to the Company of Proprietors of the Lambeth Waterworks for their right of supplying water within the statutory districts of the South-West Suburban Water Company shall be separately determined by the court of arbitration and repaid to the Water Board by the South-West Surburban Water Company.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. GRANT LAWSON said that the Lambeth Company had nothing to do with the matter. It was the Grand Junction Company, and, there again, an agreement had been entered into which ought not to be broken.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he regarded the last division as deciding the principle of these cases, and therefore he thought it would not be necessary to put the House to the trouble of another division.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 33 agreed to.

Clauses 34, 35, and 36 agreed to.

Clause 37:—

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he would move his Amendment in order to give the President of the Local Government Board an opportunity of making an alternative suggestion.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 24, line 30, to leave out from 'means,' to 'one,' in line 31, and insert 'the first of January.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. GRANT LAWSON said he understood that if the hon. Gentleman withdrew his Amendment his right hon. friend would be prepared to propose another date, namely, the 24th June, 1904.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he was not unreasonable enough to insist that the date mentioned in his Amendment should be accepted; but it was exceedingly important that as early a date as possible should be fixed, and that there should be simultaneous unification of management and control over all the companies. The experience of the County Council and other bodies was that when they took over tramways or Water Companies, and allowed a too long period to elapse before the date of actual possession, the companies permitted their maintenance standard to diminish and their repairs to fall off. There should be effective occupation, unified control, and simultaneous possession as soon as possible. He really thought that eighteen months was a longer period than the circumstances of the case warranted.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he thought he could satisfy the hon. Gentleman. The date in the Bill, the 24th December, 1903, was fixed when they hoped that the Bill would receive the Royal Assent in August or September last. That meant eighteen months forward; but the Bill could not now receive the Royal Assent until the end of the year, and he was accordingly putting the date forward an almost equivalent period to that by which the passage of the Bill was postponed. The election of the new authority could not possibly take place before March or April, and, therefore, in putting the date as the 24th June, 1904, he was not putting it forward eighteen months, but only fourteen months. He thought that that was not an extravagant time to fix for the completion of the transactions in connection with the purchase of eight Water Companies.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he only wanted the thing done decently, and if the right hon. Gentleman assured him that fourteen months was a reasonable time, he would assent.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he understood that in addition to the period now fixed, a further period of eighteen months might be given beyond the appointed day, at the discretion of the Local Government Board. That would be a period of almost three years, which would practically cover the life of the first Board. He thought that would be the result if the words "not being more than eighteen months later" were retained.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he intended to put an Amendment on the Paper altering the date to the 24th June, 1904, and another Amendment to leave out the words referred to by the hon. Gentleman. That would enable the Local Government Board to appoint an earlier date, assuming the companies and the Board agreed. On the other hand, if there was a general agreement, consequent on some unforeseen difficulty, that the date should be extended, it would be well that that power should be given.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 38, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47, agreed to.

Clause 48:—

Mr. LOUGH moved to omit sub-Section (3), which, he explained, proposed to compensate water directors who were members of the Staines Reservoir Joint Committee for loss of their position. The object of the whole Clause was to compensate the directors. There was no precedent for such a course, while this particular sub-Section was simply atrocious, because the Gentlemen on the Staines Committee were already directors of the Water Companies, and would be compensated as such. He contended, therefore, that they ought not to be compensated twice over.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 31, line 42, to leave out sub-Section (3)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That sub-Section (3) stand part of the Clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said this proposal was not in the original Bill, but was inserted by the Committee upstairs, apparently for good reasons. He would remind the hon Member, however, that usually when a corporation bought up private property in the public interest a considerable additional sum was paid for what were called "etceteras," and he was informed that compensation in some shape or form was payable to those who had been habitually connected with the undertakings. That did not seem unjust, but at the same time the Government did not feel justified in introducing the proposal in the original Bill. The Joint Committee inserted the provision, and he was prepared to stand by their decision, though he did not intend to influence the decision of the Committee in the matter.

In reply to an hon. Member who asked how long the members of the Staines Reservoir Joint Committee had held their positions, and whether there were any members of that Committee who were not also directors,

Mr. WALTER LONG said he could not give the information asked for, but, in his view, if a director was entitled to compensation it made no difference to the principle whether he had held his position for five or fifteen years.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said the question before the Committee was not whether directors as a whole should be compensated. Sub-Section 3 proposed to compensate the members of the Staines Committee, who were also directors of Water Companies, so that if the sub-Section were agreed to, they would be compensated twice over.

Mr. WHITMORE thought that while the Committee generally were willing to uphold the decision of the Joint Committee with regard to the compensation of directors, they could not see why practically the same men should be compensated twice over. He, personally, was inclined to agree that the sub-Section should be eliminated.

MR. JOHN BURNS hoped the Committee would be unanimous in rejecting the sub-Section. On no grounds whatever were the Staines directors, who were directors of some of the other eight Water Companies, entitled to compensation. He reminded the Committee that when the Staines Reservoir Bill was before the House four or five years ago, and the celebrated sterilisation Clauses were passed, the concern of these gentlemen was not allowed to count for compensation.

*COLONEL BOWLES said the members of the Staines Reservoir Committee were paid for their special services, and he could not see why they should be paid after those services had ceased.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

MR. LOUGH said he had nothing further to say, and would content himself by taking a division against the principle.

(11.54.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 620.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott

Mr. Whitmore.

Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh'm
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kemp, George
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Legge, Col. Hon. Honeage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow

Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn. A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy, M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Harry Samuel and
Mr. Bull.

NOES.

Allhusen, AugustusH'nryEden
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Charrington, Spencer
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Gladstone, RtHn. HerbertJohn
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
M'Kenna, Reginald
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Rigg, Richard
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Tomkinson, James
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Lough and Mr. Cremer.

Remaining Clauses agreed to.

First, Second and Third Schedules agreed to.

*Mr. BIGWOOD asked whether, in the event of a Bill being introduced by the Water Board, the Middlesex County Council would be prejudiced in their right to oppose that Bill, by reason of having a representative on the Board? If so, they would rather have no representative at all.

Mr. WALTER LONG said it was specifically provided in the Bill that the local authorities should retain their power.

Fourth Schedule:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 35, line 5, after 'shall' to insert 'not.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'not' be there inserted."

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said that, inasmuch as the Board was admittedly a large body, it might be worthy of consideration whether, in the event of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being chosen from members of the Board, it would not be well to allow the body to be practically reduced by two.

Mr. WALTER LONG said the Government were following the usual course with regard to corporations, so that the particular districts should not lose the services of their representatives if elected to these positions. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were necessarily removed from the ordinary debates, and were unable to take the same part in them as ordinary members, so that their constituents were practically deprived of representation.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. LOUGH moved an Amendment which, he said, would have the effect of limiting the membership of the Board to persons who were members of the constituent authorities by whom they were elected.

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 7, to insert '(a) is not a member of the constituent authority affecting him.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. GRANT LAWSON said the Amendment was very undesirable, as it was hoped that the local authorities would vie with one another in the effort to get the best men possible to represent them on the Water Board, and it would not be right to limit their choice in the manner proposed.

Mr. LOUGH said the statement of the hon. Member was very important, as the members might have no representative capacity whatever. However, he would not press the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CREMER moved an Amendment to disqualify from being Chairman and Vice-Chairman, or a member of the Water Board, a person who "has any pecuniary interest in any of the existing Water Companies." His object in moving the Amendment was to prevent any such scandals in future as unfortunately arose in the days of the Metropolitan Board of Works. If the Amendment was likely to prove contentious now, he would reserve it for the Report stage.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 35, line 7, at end, to insert '(a) has any pecuniary interest in any of the existing water companies.'"—(*Mr. Cremer.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said he thought he could give the hon. Gentleman a good reason for not pressing the Amendment. assuming that instead of the views of the Government the views of the hon. Gentlemen opposite had prevailed and that those duties had been imposed on the London County Council, would the hon. Gentleman then have proposed that no member of the Council should be interested, directly or indirectly, in a Water Company, and that no director or shareholder in any Water Company should be qualified to act as a member of the Council? Did he not think that there were some of the directors of the present London Water Companies whose services would be of immense value on the new Board? Of course it was obvious that they could not be elected at first, because they would be in the position of vendors in a going concern. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press the Amendment.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he should be the last man to disqualify any water director who wanted to place at the disposal of his fellow-citizens the experience he had collected in the region of private enterprise, but he should like to point out to the President of the Local Government Board that that was an entirely different matter from what his hon. friend suggested. This Water Board would be the buyer of the properties of the Water Companies, and it seemed to him undesirable that any person should at the same time be a member of the Board and the holder of an interest in any of these properties.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was obvious that a water director could not be a member of the first Water Board.

MR. CREMER asked leave to withdraw the Amendment, and stated that he would bring up the matter on the Report stage.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Fourth Schedule and remaining Schedules agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 307.]

MR. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-eight minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 9th December, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition in favour of; of Conservatives and Unionists of Sheffield; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition against: of the School Board of Savoch, Aberdeenshire; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS.

Annual Series:
No. 2919. Portugal.
No. 2920. Chile (Supplementary).

TRANSVAAL.

Liquor Licensing Ordinance, 1902. (No. 32.)

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).

Returns for the year 1900-1901.

Presented (by command) and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Report to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, patients seen, and miles travelled by the visitors of lunatics, pursuant to the Lunacy Act, 1890, between 1st April, 1902, and 30th September, 1902: laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª Tomorrow.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Moved, "That the House do resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The EARL of HALSBURY) having put the Question and declared it carried, left the Woolsack, and the EARL of MORLEY took the Chair.

EARL CARRINGTON then rose to speak, but—

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The EARL of MORLEY) informed him that the House had gone into Committee.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I think it was a very distinct understanding on Friday night, when the Debate on the Second Reading of the Bill was brought to a close, that the two or three noble Lords who still desired to address the House should have an opportunity of doing so on the motion for going into Committee.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I agree with the noble Lord that that was the understanding; but I am bound to say that when I put the question no one rose, and it is extremely difficult for the person who has to preside over these deliberations to conduct the business properly if no one will take the trouble to take the ordinary means of dissenting from, or agreeing with, the Motion before the House. Strictly speaking, we are in Committee, but if the general consent of the House is obtained, I will move that the Committee be not proceeded with.

The Motion was agreed to, and the Lord Chancellor resumed his seat on the Woolsack.

EARL CARRINGTON: My Lords, I desire to thank your Lordships very heartily for the courtesy you have extended to me in permitting me at this stage of the Bill to say a few words on its main principles, to which we are very greatly opposed. The curtain has now fallen on another act of the education drama. On a day last week, which will be remembered I think by all educationists as "fatal Friday," your Lordships gave a Second Reading to this Bill by a majority of between four and five to one, and thereby endorsed the principles of a measure which was carried in the other House of Parliament by the stupendous majority of 250, owing, I am bound to admit, to the votes of the Irish allies of the Government. The Bill when it came into your Lordships' House was described by Lord Goschen, who invariably hits the nail on the head, as "a Bill to save Church schools from death," but it is also a Bill which gives the *coup de grâce* to the School Boards. I will confine my remarks to the case of the voluntary schools as affected by the Bill.

There are 14,000 voluntary schools, or denominational schools, or non-provided schools, or national schools—whatever you call them—they are Church schools; and, as your Lordships are aware, half the children of the working men of this country are educated in them. Twelve thousand of these schools belong to the Church of England, and it is these schools that I shall refer to first. The Bill, as we read it, endows the Church schools with public money, and leaves them practically under clerical control. We should be among the first to acknowledge the devotion, the sacrifices, and the earnestness of a great many of the clergy as regards education, but we object to the Bill because it makes the parson omnipotent as regards religious teaching. The reason for that is not far to seek. In the Church of England, when a clergyman has been given a living, and has been inducted, he is practically on his own freehold. He is the absolute master of his own actions, and interference with him is extremely difficult and expensive. Indeed, only recently we read in the newspapers an account of a clergyman of the Church of England who openly declared, having been censured in private by his Bishop, that if the language which had been applied to him had been applied to him in public he would have had no difficulty in bringing an action for libel. To those who have property in the country, and who have voluntary schools, this is a matter of considerable anxiety. Take the case of the Rev. Mr. Leeper, who was given a living by Keble College. Mr. Leeper was inducted into the living by the Bishop of Exeter, and is now a recognised rector or vicar of the Church of England, although, on the testimony of Sir H. Howorth, which I have not seen contradicted, he is the author of a manual of devotion in which every Romish doctrine is taught and inculcated with the sole exception of the supremacy of the Pope. It has been my experience, and it must have been that of not a few of your Lordships who have the giving of livings, to find that many clergymen—God-fearing, conscientious men, no doubt—are out of touch and out of harmony with the population, and very considerable friction and difficulty is apt to ensue. Therefore it was that after the Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons he protested strongly against one-man control of religious teaching.

Earl Carrington.

The objections went on increasing till at last the difficulties became very formidable, dangerous, and menacing; so much so that the Ministerial newspapers had to say that the objections were stage thunder. Some of the clergy described the objections as insincere, and the protests of Dr. Clifford and many other leaders of the Nonconformist Church were openly denounced as the veriest bunkum and the merest claptrap. But, though we were as men crying in the wilderness, there suddenly came a bolt from the blue and we discovered a very unexpected and very strong ally. About five weeks ago an Amendment was put down by Colonel Kenyon-Slaney to the effect that religious instruction should be under the control of the managers, and, to some people's great astonishment, Sir William Anson rose and announced that the Government were inclined to accept the Amendment. The Prime Minister also rose in his place and supported it. Why did he support it? The Prime Minister said he did so—

> "On account of the abuse here and there by the clergyman—very rarely, he admitted—of the powers that were given him by the trust. The harm done to the whole cause of religious education in elementary schools was not to be measured in words. He met it at every turn and on every occasion."

By that statement the Prime Minister raised an ecclesiastical tornado, which he was possibly not aware would be the result of his change of front. Of course, the Kenyon-Slaney Clause had to be explained, and the Church of England took it very much to heart. They were told that it was not a slur, that it was never meant in any way to be a reflection upon them; yet they were very indignant, and resented it accordingly. I do not wonder at it. Let us put ourselves in the position of a clergyman of the Church of England, who, during a long, holy, and religious life, had done the best in his power to promote religious education. We hear of hundreds of such men in

London—men like Canon Barker—who have raised as much as £40,000 or £50,000 for their schools, which are a pattern to the country, and which they hope to hand down in the same condition to their successors. Then, there are heaps of men who lead most devoted lives in obscurity in the country, and who have managed, either through the help of the squire of the parish, or by sending their daughters out as governesses, and by pinching and saving, to have efficient schools. One can imagine the feelings of such men when they were told that they were to have five other men with them to see that they taught education properly. It would be no use to tell them that these men would be of the greatest possible assistance. The clergyman would say that was all very well, but he did not believe it. A devout, religious and conscientious parson would most strongly object that the squire, a churchwarden, a retired naval or military officer, a member of the County Council, and, perhaps, a Dissenter thrown in to see fair play, should be over him as the supreme arbiters of religious faith. The Bishop of St. Asaph saw that at once, and he declared to his clergy in Wales that though he had the most profound respect for his brother Bishop of London, yet he was not going to accept his version of the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment; it would be necessary, he said, before he accepted it, that he should be informed more clearly of its meaning. So the Prime Minister found himself between the devil and the deep sea, because by this Bill he had set England in a blaze, and by his acceptance of the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Rosebery's schoolfellow, he had set the Church in an uproar. Though you may turn this Clause inside out as much as you like, though you may say that it all depends upon where you put a comma as to what it means, you are face to face with this terrible fact, which you must recognise in all its naked hideousness, that there is in the Church of England so much inconsistency and uncertainty amongst the ministers, that by 211 votes to 41 the House of Commons accepted the Prime Minister's advice, and practically declared before Christendom that in the year 1902 Old England cannot trust her parson. So much for the Church of England schools.

As I have said, there are 14,000 Church schools in this country, 12,000 of which belong to the Established Church. There are, I think, 450 schools which belong to the Wesleyans, 1,000 which may be called odds and ends, and there are 1,042 which belong to the Roman Catholic Church. I think that of all the speeches we listened to on the Second Reading, the one which touched those who were privileged to hear it most was the speech of the noble Viscount opposite, Lord Llandaff, who spoke with genuine emotion of the sacrifices that had been made by his Church to establish and maintain their own schools. He spoke of the Catholic religion being in a great minority in this country. He also spoke of the poverty of the Roman Catholic Church in England, and ended by stating that he feared his Church was an unpopular one in this country. The Prime Minister spoke of the Roman Catholic Church as a religious body against which no doubt a strong feeling prevailed amongst large sections of society; and if you look at the continent of Europe, if you look at the terrible scenes taking place in France, Spain, and Portugal in connection with the expulsion of the nuns and other religious communities, you will see that the Roman Catholic Church is undergoing a time of great trouble. But in spite of what has happened on the continent of Europe, free, tolerant England has given Roman Catholicism a home, and said, to quote the words of M. Clemenceau, "So long as you ask only for liberty of belief and to practise your religion we refuse you nothing." I submit with all seriousness that it is a very remarkable thing that in Protestant England we should, under this Bill, for the first time practically endow Roman Catholic schools.

I may be told, my Lords, that the Bill before us is the simple *finale* to the Act of 1870, but I well remember that we were told at that time that the result of the compromise would be that all the "rotten" Church schools would eventually die out and that the best ones would survive; and I venture to say that if we had imagined for one moment that thirty-two years afterwards we should have seen a Bill introduced which kept up with public money clerical schools and left them under clerical control, including Roman Catholic schools—I say, on my honour, that I for one, and, I believe, all that band of Liberals with whom I voted, would have cut off our hand at the wrist before consenting to a compromise which would have led to such disastrous results. How is it possible to contend that it is right to endow the Roman Catholic religion as it is endowed under this Bill? I further respectfully ask a question which I think the nation has a right to have answered, How do the Bench of Bishops reconcile it with their conscience? The mandate of the Roman Catholic Church is "faith and discipline"; but the English people have their faith too, and I believe that one of the principal articles of that faith is that our Sovereign is, under Christ, over all persons, ecclesiastical and temporal in his dominions, supreme. That the Sovereign, in Christ, is the sole head of the Church is a doctrine to which the Episcopacy and clergy with one voice agree. The Bishops are appointed by the Sovereign, and I believe by Royal authority alone Convocations are summoned and dissolved. The King on his accession swears a solemn oath, in language which some of us think far too strong, to preserve inviolate the Protestant religion, and yet the Bishops are actively supporting a Bill which proposes to vote public money for the endowment, support, and sanction of those who teach the supremacy and infallibility of the Pope, and of the doctrines of the Church of Rome—a Church which has absolutely refused to recognise our Prelates and clergy as properly ordained ecclesiastics. What will be the result of this Bill when it becomes law? I have said there are over 1,000 Roman Catholic schools now. Cardinal Vaughan himself has told us that the great object of a Catholic school is not so much to promote education as to turn out good Catholics, and he has publicly complimented the Prime Minister on his victory over the Nonconformists. The Bishops may be content to follow their course, and they may have no conscientious scruples on this head: but it cannot be denied that they, in return for a subscription, are willing to coerce those of their fellow countrymen—Churchmen and Nonconformists alike—who, by payment and obedience to the law, must sacrifice principles which they hold to be sacred, and which, from generation to generation, they have tenaciously upheld, even at the cost of the most bitter suffering. I followed my noble friend Lord Spencer, who leads the small band of Liberals in this House with so much courage and consistency, into the Division Lobby against this Bill on Friday last, with the fixed belief that we were serving the best interests of our religion and of our country in registering our protest against this fatal and most iniquitous Bill.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER: My Lords, I think it desirable that a word should be said in reply to what has fallen from the noble Lord opposite in respect to his appeal to the Episcopal Bench. We are asked how we reconcile our consciences to endowing the Roman Catholic Church by this Bill. I refuse altogether to admit that the assignment either of rates or of taxes, or both, for the support of schools under a local authority which has entire control of the secular education in them is an endowment either of the Church of Rome or of the Church of England. The rates and taxes are given to the local authority, not to either Church. Neither Church can touch a penny of the money. Whatever advantage we get, we get indirectly through our schools being kept open by the local authority. Indirectly we get this advantage, that the local authority, by keeping the school open, enables us to give religious instruction such as we believe in. But if we do get this indirect advantage we get back no more than we have already paid for in rates. We represent half the population of England, and for many years we have suffered a gross injustice. We have been obliged to pay rates for the maintenance of schools we did not use, and to subscribe to the support of the schools we did use. What the Government has done is simply to put an end to that injustice. Nonconformists get exactly the same indirect advantage as the Church of England or the Church of Rome, because the money which represents the rest of the rates and taxes is given to the support of schools which, under the Cowper-Temple Clause, provide religious education for the children of Nonconformists which is entirely acceptable to them. They get precisely the same indirect advantage as we obtain. No question of conscience arises in the matter, and I think that the noble Lord's appeal to the Bench of Bishops, as persons who had difficulty in reconciling their consciences to the action they had taken, was a little superfluous.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: My Lords, like the noble Earl opposite, I feel grateful to your Lordships for giving me this opportunity of addressing the House in opposition to the Bill. I will not attempt to follow my brother of Manchester with regard to the special point he has raised, because we may have an opportunity of dealing with that point when we come to certain Amendments in Committee. I occupy a somewhat isolated position among my right rev. brethren in reference to this matter. In fact, if the noble Earl on the Cross Benches would spare me the loan of a famous phrase, I may venture to say that I have to plough my lonely furrow in this matter. It is a furrow, my Lords, which I hope and believe will bear some good fruit for the Church of England when I am gone. I feel that I can perhaps best set my views before the House if I base them on two or three of the speeches which have been already delivered—the speeches of my right rev. brother of Winchester, of my younger Episcopal brother of London, and of the noble Viscount Lord Goschen. The Bishop of Winchester, I am bound to acknowledge, surprised me to some extent by taking exception to the Nonconformist call to prayer for the defeat of this Bill. I was surprised, because I drew an entirely different inference from that call to prayer than that which my right rev. brother seems to have drawn. I take it as indicating beyond all question that the great Nonconformist bodies in England are in deadly earnest about this measure. If we knew more about Nonconformists than some of us do, I think we would recognise that they are in the habit of praying directly and in deadly earnest for the things which they desire.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: I regret to have to interrupt my right rev. brother, but I should be sorry that it should be supposed that I had taken the smallest exception to the Nonconformists having asked in all their places of worship for united prayer on the subject of this Bill. That course would have been entirely suitable. What I objected to was the terms in which that was done, because the Nonconformist authorities, instead of asking for Divine guidance, prejudged the case by a series of vituperative epithets as to the character of the Bill.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: I am glad to hear this explanation, and to know that my right rev. brother did not intend to take exception to the directness of the prayer. Any of us who have had the opportunity of studying such a life as that of Oliver Cromwell know very well how prayer and action went together. I remember, my Lords, hearing the noble Earl (Lord Rosebery) give a most interesting account of how that great Englishman was lost for two hours immediately before one of his greatest battles, and how he was found in a garret on his knees with his Bible and his sword in front of him. Does any one suppose that for those two hours the great Oliver was wrestling with his God in some platitudinous prayer? No, beyond a doubt he was praying, as a great many Nonconformists are praying with regard to this Bill, that his enemies might be smitten hip and thigh with the sword of the Lord and of Gideon. I venture to dwell on this for a moment because I have an impression—I may be wrong—that a great many members of this House are very imperfectly acquainted with the sentiments of our Nonconformist fellow countrymen. Among Nonconformists I have a great many intimate friends, and there are in that body some of the best and holiest Englishmen I know. They are not men who take part in politial life, but they have told me again and again during the last few months that it is hopeless for them at present to look for that godly union and concord for which we have been labouring until this time of stress and storm is over. Therefore, I think we do well to consider what the prayers of the Nonconformists mean in this matter.

My right rev. brother said further that the opposition to this Bill was mainly a Nonconformist opposition. I cannot but think that he was under a misapprehension on this point I leave noble Lords opposite to take care of themselves, but, at any rate, much as I respect Nonconformists, I feel that it was a little hard upon me as a Bishop who opposes this Bill to be classed implicitly as a Nonconformist. I oppose this Bill as a Churchman. The Bishop of Winchester said that he supported the Bill both as an Educationist and as a Churchman. I venture to say that I oppose the measure on precisely those grounds, and on one other—namely, as a citizen. I do not presume to put myself in the scales against either of my right rev. brethren the Bishop of Winchester or the Bishop of London, but if I might be permitted to gather up and bring with me all the educational lay opinion with which I am acquainted in our great universities, and public schools—in fact, the great mass of educational thought up and down the country—to fill up—as one might say, then I am not afraid of the scales going down against me. What I desire, then, to urge is that this Bill deserves to be opposed first on educational grounds, and on those grounds I would merely indicate one or two of many points. I will take Part II. of the Bill, the part for which we have all been looking and longing during seven long and lean years, and which deals with secondary and technical education. Having had a good deal to do with education of every degree, from the elementary school to the University, I venture to say that this is a miserable provision considering the need and the opportunity. The most important paragraph in that part of the Bill is the one which allows the local authority, if they wish, to levy a 2d. rate. No one who knows anything of what our educational needs are, and what we should be doing, can describe that in any other word but as a niggardly and parsimonious allowance. I have wondered again and again whether the members of the Government have ever read their own Yellow-books on the subject of higher education in other countries, which are published under the direction of Mr. Michael Saddler. No one could sit down to the study of these illuminating books without seeing that it is necessary that we should do ten times as much as is proposed in Part II. of the Bill. What I also complain of is that this work of education is just left to the 'prentice hands of bodies which have not had to do with educational matters before, so that among the most backward and inert portions of the people you will naturally get the least efficient bodies to manage this difficult business.

The Lord Bishop of Hereford.

Moreover, I object to the destruction of the School Boards for two reasons. First, because it destroys all direct popular representation on the management of the schools, and in doing that everyone who has had to do with local educational matters knows that it is sweeping away one of the greatest of all educational forces existent in this country. I say that, having myself sat upon two School Boards and having also managed a great number of Voluntary Schools. Secondly, no proper arrangement is made for continuation classes. There is no obligation to attend these classes, or even to provide them. What a waste is involved in our truncated system of elementary education! We spend a large amount of money and the lives of a vast number of persons in educating children in elementary schools up to the age of twelve or thirteen, and then we let them go, no one knows whither, as regards educational influence. Can a more wasteful process be imagined? It is just as if every springtime your Lordships were to have one of your fields ploughed, cultivated, sown with good seed, and fenced in, and then, just as the seed was beginning to grow in the April sunshine, you pulled down the fence and let the whole world trample over it; and repeated this process year by year and every year. What a grand opportunity has been missed in not adding to this system a system of continuation classes something like that found in Germany and elsewhere! A German boy leaves the elementary school at the age of fourteen, and he is bound to go on with continuation class instruction till the age of seventeen. Let us put the English boy and the German boy together at the age of seventeen, and you will understand how it is that Germany is going ahead of England in so many directions.

Again, then there is no real provision in this Bill to help talent up the ladder of progress. On the other hand—I do not like to use strong words, but I know no other word which quite fits the case—very great care has been taken to confiscate the endowments which have hitherto been used for the benefit of the poor. As I read that Clause of the Bill, I could not but think what would have happened in both Houses of Parliament if a Radical Government had brought in such a confiscation of endowments. What an outcry we should have had from every Bench in this House against the sacrilegious hand which was robbing the poor of the endowments they had hitherto enjoyed. I still hope, though it is with a very faint hope, that by an Amendment which I have put down this injustice to the poor may be remedied. I object to the Bill also as a citizen, because every voice from the country outside of a Government dockyard that has reached us of late has declared unmistakably that the country does not like the Bill. further, I object to it because I have always been taught for forty years of public life, that it is a Constitutional axiom that any institution maintained by rates and taxes should be under public control. Again, I object to the Bill because it shuts the door in half the schools, to a considerable extent, though no longer, of course, entirely, against a great multitude of Nonconformist teachers. Further it does hardly anything to uplift and help forward our citizen education, and it sows the seeds of discord and sectarian strife in the community like a crop of dragon's teeth. But I chiefly object to it as a member of the Church of England. I may be mistaken, and I shall be thankful if I am proved to be so, but I have a great fear in my mind that this is a very dangerous step for the Church, and that the Church has received in gifts which come to it under the Bill a very insidious blow. Undoubtedly it has given great strength to the opposition to the Church in the country, and it leaves us, without doubt, as a Church, in a position of unstable equilibrium. There is no finality whatever about this measure. If there is one thing in political life more certain than another it is that there will come by-and-by a radical change in the sentiment of the community, and that one of the first things that will have to be done will be to make a new system of public education. In these circumstances, as I have before asked some of my right rev. brethren, are we likely to get a system anything like so advantageous as we might have got at the present juncture? I think we shall probably get a system of absolute popular control of all schools, with no tests. I do not know whether that would be more to the taste of my right rev. brethren than the present arrangement.

I regret that the Church seems to have acquiesced so readily in the policy which is described in an old doctrine that "they should get who have the power, and they should keep who can." That, in the vernacular, which I am shy of using, is what people sometimes describe as a game of "grab." I do not like it. I feel that this aggressive policy of getting all you can is bad enough in the open field of political life. In China and in Africa it is bad enough, but I cannot endure it in the Church of Christ. If I had to formulate in a single sentence my reasons for objecting so strongly to this policy of aggressive grasping at all we can secure without giving the popular control which we ought to give, I would say that it is because it tends to destroy the influence of the Church by corrupting its highest spirit—*corruptio optimi pessima.* This kind of policy, in so far as it tends to destroy the spiritual influence of the Church in English life, is *propter vitam vivendi perdere causas.* I have been perhaps more closely associated for thirty years with our venerable Primate than any other Bishop, and I had hoped that the most rev. Prelate might have crowned his great career by persuading the Government to bring in a great and liberal educational measure on the expanding and progressive lines of the Endowed Schools Act, in regard to which he took such an honourable part. I deplore that he has acquiesced in this Bill instead of using his great and well-won influence in the production of a really good educational measure. The Bill does not give us the sustaining and strengthening bread of educational progress, but a miserable bone of contention in our English life. The Bishop of London, in the course of the Second Reading debate, quoted certain statistics by way of attack on the School Board system, and I feel that those statistics ought not to go unchallenged. He said that he had examined, or caused to be examined, a large number of lads in the East of London—in Stepney and Bethnal Green, which, after all, is only one section of the world—and he found that about 80 per cent. of them went neither to Church nor chapel. In saying this he was reproducing statistics which he had produced in the summer of 1899 in *The Times*. He said then that 1,000 boys of about fifteen years of age had been examined, of whom 900 went nowhere. On that occasion a great educational authority said it would be interesting to know from the Bishop in what sort of schools these children had been brought up, board schools or voluntary schools. But the Bishop said, "I forgot to inquire." He forgot to inquire. Then what are these statistics worth for his purpose? I venture to think that it is quite possible that half of these lads grew up in our Church schools. As these statistics were quoted with a view of depreciating the education given in the board schools, I feel it my duty to say that I think such statistics are worthless, and the illogical inferences drawn from them are misleading. I was sorry that my right rev. brother drew the inference that the teaching of the Old and New Testaments is not really the teaching of religion. I appeal to your Lordships to say, from your own personal experience, whether the best lessons of your religious life have not been learnt at your mother's knee in the teaching of the beauties the attraction and the power of the Divine life of Jesus.

I desire to say one or two words with regard to the subject of tests, on which the noble Viscount Lord Goschen spoke the other day. The noble Viscount won his spurs in political life by throwing open the doors of the Tory Universities to all comers, and there is not a single person in the Universities who would not tell him what a good work he then did. But what has he to say about a similar opening of the door in elementary schools? Instead of pleading for an open door the noble Viscount drew an idyllic picture of a country school where the liberal-minded squire and parson invited the Nonconformist minister to share in their educational feast; but, having regard to their trust deed, they had to tell him they were not sure they were doing right, but they welcomed him out of pure love and charity, only they were obliged to seat him below the salt. They hoped, however, he would feel that "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." This, my Lords, is all very beautiful, but now the Nonconformist will say, "It is true the dining-room is yours still, but the chairs and tables and everything on the board are no more yours than mine Why should I still have to sit below the salt or be liable to have the door shut in my face?" I regret that the noble Viscount, with his great record, should ever have brought himself to support this Bill. I, myself, do not look on the Bill as a strictly educational measure, but as an opportunist political patchwork, and a thing, consequently, that will not last. Moreover, I believe that if the noble Duke had been unhampered by his surroundings he would have given us a ten times better Bill. I regard with interest and gratitude the work which for years the noble Duke has done for technical and higher instruction; but the noble Duke has found himself involved in the serpent coils of political entanglement. I think of him as a pathetic and noble Laocoon, a victim to that ill-starred union, which has been very disastrous to English life, between old-fashioned Tory and traditional Whig and Birmingham Radical. That is admitted to be the source and the origin of all the bad elements of this Bill. Such a Bill as this would have been impossible in English politics but for that disastrous union. As for the Bill itself, I will do my best to amend it; but when it has passed, as I presume it will, for it is a foregone conclusion, and the discussion in this House is a very unreal discussion, I will also do my best to administer it in my diocese and neighbourhood in all honesty and for the good of the people. If it dies in its infancy, however, I shall lift up no lamentation over it, for I believe that the death of this poor offspring of a united Cabinet will be the resurrection of a new and a better hope for our educational advancement, and still more for that godly union and concord as between one denomination and another which I had hoped to see growing in these latter years of my life.

The Lord Bishop of Hereford.

*EARL SPENCER: I rise merely to explain the position which I and my noble friends behind me propose to take with regard to the Amendments to this

Bill. Having opposed the Bill on Second Reading, and having been very severely beaten, we mean, of course, to accept that, and not to move Amendments which would uselessly repeat the view we have already advanced on Second Reading. Any Amendments which we would care to move would really be against the substance of the Bill, which your Lordships approved when you accorded the measure a Second Reading. Moreover, I believe that a great many of the Amendments would go very near to transgressing the privileges of the other House. I quite admit that the other House is the guardian of its own privileges, but I should be very sorry myself to do anything which would be supposed to infringe those privileges. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has said that he will deal with such questions as they are brought before the Committee. While I for one would agree that we ought not to touch on questions of finance, I would point out that there are other questions much more difficult to solve—questions as to the conditions on which the grant is made—which we reserve the right to discuss and consider as they come up.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND: My Lords, I rise to express dissent from the view which the noble Earl has just taken on the subject of privilege. I deny altogether that there is any breach of constitutional privilege in your Lordships discussing and interfering with any of the Clauses of the Bill which are connected with financial considerations.

LORD DAVEY: My Lords, I should not presume for one moment to set my opinion against that of the noble Duke, who has had such a vast experience of Parliamentary life, larger, perhaps, than that enjoyed by any other Member of your Lordships' House. I am, however, bound to say that it is not my opinion alone, but also the opinion of others better qualified to speak, that the Resolution of the House of Commons of 1678†, which has now been acquiesced in by this House for upwards of 300 years, no longer remains a mere Resolution, but has become part of the constitutional law of this country. I quite agree with what was said by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack the other night, that in a Bill of this kind, which deals not only with finance but also contains a number of other provisions, we need not be too particular in scrutinising Amendments which may possibly affect either the "conditions, qualifications, or limitations" of the grant which is made by the Bill. But undoubtedly this Bill does come within the definition "aid or supply" to His Majesty, referred to in the Resolution of 1678, and the constitutional practice of this House, arising out of that Resolution, has been not to interfere with either the amount, extent, or incidence of the rate which such a Bill enabled a local authority to raise.

I have given careful study to the the provisions of this Bill, and endeavoured to make myself acquainted with its Clauses, and the conclusion I have come to is that every Amendment of importance is so dependent on questions of finance, either of rating or of Parliamentary grant, that it would be difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to make any Amendment of real substance, such as some of us on this side of the House would desire to make. Let me give your Lordships three illustrations of what I mean. The proviso of Clause 1 contains what many of us regard as one of the most serious blots on the Bill, because it is inconsistent with the establishment of one authority to control secondary and elementary education. In that proviso the Council of a borough with a population of over 10,000, or on an urban district, with a population of over 20,000, is made the local authority for the purpose of elementary education, but not of secondary education. We contend on this side of the House that there should be one authority in these districts for both elementary and secondary education. But that confusion is made worse confounded by Clause 3 of the Bill. I find there that although the Council of a non-county borough or urban district is not made the local authority for the purpose of secondary education, it shall have power, as well as the County Council, to spend such sums as they think fit for the purpose of supplying or aiding the supply of education other than elementary. Therefore we have this position, that the authority which is not the local authority for the purpose of secondary education, may still spend money and raise a sum not exceeding the amount which would be produced by a rate of one penny in the pound. It is obvious that it would be idle to submit any Amendment to remove the serious disfigurement in the Bill, because in attempting to amend that we should be altering the incidence of the rate. I will take another example. There is a good deal of difference of opinion with regard to Clause 7, which imposes upon the local education authority the obligation of maintaining denominational schools, and there are many things in it which we would like to alter. I feel very strongly, for instance, on the provision, which was not in the original Bill, which enables the trustees on a charitable trust to charge a rent for the use of the master's residence, I find tucked away in the Clause the words:—

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† Quoted in preceding volume, at page 823.

> "Compliance with this section shall be one of the conditions required to be fulfilled by an elementary school in order to obtain a Parliamentary grant."

I am not quite sure as to the effect of those words, but they seem to me to make compliance with the whole section a condition of the enjoyment of a Parliamentary grant. Take Clause 14, which was alluded to by my right reverend friend the Bishop of Hereford, and which relates to endowments. That, of course, is a very important Clause, and one that has given rise to a great deal of controversy. It is obvious that if you alter the distribution of the endowments under this Clause, which provides that certain parts of the endowments shall go to the local educational authority, practically in relief of the rates, you will be interfering with the amount of the rate, because, if the local educational authority does not get the benefit of that portion of the endowments allotted to them by this Clause, the rate which they will have to levy for the purpose will, of course, be increased. I have given these illustrations in support of my contention that every Amendment of importance is so dependent on questions of finance that it would be impossible to make any Amendment of real substance without coming within the charge of committing a breach of constitutional privilege. In these circumstances, I am not surprised that my noble friend Lord Spencer has thought fit to take the course he mentioned with regard to Amendments.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Lord Davey.

Clause 1:—

LORD WENLOCK moved to provide that the Council of a borough with a population of over "twenty" thousand, and not of over "ten" thousand as in the Clause, should be the local education authority for that borough. The object of his Amendment was, he said, to place the boroughs on the same footing in this respect as Urban District Councils. He would give an example of how the Clause as at present constituted would work. In the Isle of Wight, the County Council would not be the central and responsible body to carry on education in that area, but there would be three separate authorities—the County Council and the Councils of the boroughs of Ryde, which had a population of just over 10,000, and of Newport which had a population of 11,000. This would prevent the establishment of one really good educational scheme for the whole of the area. He could not help thinking that some bargain must have been struck between the Government and the Association of Municipal Corporations in regard to this matter, but he was sure the arrangement proposed in the Bill would produce extremely bad educational results, and would simply lead to the perpetuation of the small and very inefficient School Boards which this measure so wisely did away with.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 10, to leave out 'ten' and to insert 'twenty.'"—(*Lord Wenlock.*)

LORD HERRIES supported the Amendment on the ground that it was most important to place the smaller boroughs under the control of the County Council. He had had the honour of being Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee of his county ever since it was first started, and could assure their Lordships that if the boroughs in question were to be no longer subject to the County Council, but were to be allowed to become their own local education authority, a great injury would be done to the cause of national education.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I cannot deny that from an educational point of view this Amendment would have a certain advantage; but I am afraid that from the practical point of view it is one which it is quite impossible to ask the House to accept. There are, I believe, fifty-one English and four Welsh boroughs which would be affected by this Amendment, and would lose the educational autonomy which the Bill proposes to continue to them; but all those boroughs which are in Wales are at present under School Boards, and about half of those in England are similarly situated. There can be no doubt that the small boroughs which have up to the present enjoyed complete educational autonomy would very strongly resent being deprived of it, as suggested by this Amendment. The House will also, perhaps, recollect that it was upon a point of this kind affecting the privileges of the small boroughs that the Bill of 1896 received the first, and, I believe, what was really the fatal blow. I do not desire in the least to attempt to intimidate your Lordships by referring to majorities in the other House of Parliament, but when I state that a similar Amendment to this was defeated in the House of Commons by a majority of 220, I think it must be obvious that any such Amendment as this would be very little likely to meet with acceptance in the other House. There is also another objection which your Lordships ought to consider. Boroughs with a population of 10,000 are already separate authorities for certain purposes under the Act of 1888, and to create, as would be the effect of this Amendment, a separate category of boroughs, some possessing a different set of powers, between 10,000 and 20,000, would be a very considerable inconvenience. I am afraid, therefore, it is impossible for His Majesty's Government to accept the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

*LORD REAY inquired whether the local education authority would have compulsory powers to acquire sites to provide for the needs of secondary education. Under the Technical Instruction Acts there was only power to obtain sites by agreement. He desired to know whether the Government intended that in future that system should prevail, or whether they proposed to give compulsory powers.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: There are no compulsory powers under this Clause.

EARL BEAUCHAMP moved an Amendment to provide that the local education authority should take such steps "as are necessary," instead of such steps "as seem to them desirable," to aid the supply of higher education. He said that he moved the Amendment in no hostility to the Bill, but for the purpose of stiffening its provisions in regard to secondary education. As the Clause now stood the question of drainage would be on a better footing than that of secondary education, for drainage was compulsory and secondary education was not, except, of course, that the whisky money had to be spent for the purpose of technical education. At present this branch of education was carried on in a very happy-go-lucky manner, and there was a great demand for further provision. For instance, Somersetshire had five times as many evening continuation scholars as the county of Gloucester, which did not spend half the whisky money on technical instruction. It was eminently desirable that counties like Gloucester should be made to do something more for higher education, and he hoped the Government would see their way to accept the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 19 and 20, to leave out 'seem to them desirable,' and to insert 'are necessary.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

*LORD HARRIS opposed the Amendment, not because he was out of sympathy with the object of the noble Earl, but because the whole cost of secondary education was to be thrown on the ratepayers.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: No, there is the whisky money.

*Lord HARRIS, continuing, said that if any part of the Government grants now used for technical education had to be used for secondary education as distinguished from technical education, it would be absolutely necessary to interrupt the system of technical education which now existed. He confessed to the greatest possible disappointment in regard to this part of the Bill. He had thought the Bill would deal comprehensively with secondary education, but that part of the Bill had become almost swamped by elementary education. The improvement of secondary education was a national burden, and he objected to this Clause because it would throw an additional burden on the shoulders of the ratepayers for a national purpose, and it would do this in the teeth of the Report of the Commission on Local Taxation, over which Lord Balfour presided, which expressed in the strongest terms the opinion that the ratepayers were already overburdened, and that as regards matters which could be considered national they should be relieved.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: My noble friend who has just spoken is mistaken in supposing that secondary education is only aided by the Government from what is called the whisky money grant. He entirely forgets that the whole of what used to appear in the Estimates as the grant to the Science and Art Department is now given in aid of secondary education, although the greater part of that education may be described as technical or art education. But those grants still continue to be given, and there is no doubt that any steps which may be taken by municipal authorities under this Bill to extend secondary education will have to be met by a very considerable additional grant from the central authority. My noble friend is therefore mistaken in supposing that this Bill puts a new charge for secondary education solely upon the ratepayers. With regard to the Amendment moved by the noble Lord opposite, I do not think I can add anything to what I said at the conclusion of this debate the other night. The noble Earl has explained that his Amendment will give a very much more compulsory character to the Clause than it already possesses. As I stated in moving the Second Reading, the scope of the Clause was considerably extended in Committee in the other House. The changes which were made in Committee were, in the first place, to make the application of the whisky money to higher education compulsory, and, in the second place, to oblige the local education authority to consider the needs of their area in respect to higher education and to take such steps as might then, after consultation with the Board of Education, seem to them desirable. I understand that the Amendment which the noble Earl has proposed would compel them to take such steps as the Board of Education might consider desirable, but I cannot conceive anything in the present state of things which would be more likely to indispose the authorities and the ratepayers generally to an extension of secondary education, which, we agree, to him is eminently desirable, than to drive, rather than lead, the local authorities. I think it is quite impossible to go further than the Clause now goes, and I regret therefore that we are unable to accept the Amendment.

*Earl SPENCER: The Amendment which has been proposed by the noble Earl so entirely agrees with the views I expressed on the Second Reading of the Bill that I shall certainly vote for it. Stronger words than those in the Clause ought to be inserted, because the Clause, as far as I can see, leaves it perfectly open to the local authorities to take no step whatever, even though there may be a pressing need.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (The Marquess of Londonderry): I should like to say that the Board of Education desires to act as an advisory body, and does not wish to bring compulsion on the local education authorities. In the event of an extreme case arising the Board of Education, if the Amendment were carried, would have the power to force the authority to raise a rate for secondary education. Such a provision would be directly opposed to the pledge I gave the other day. The Government have been denounced for not having done a great deal more to promote secondary education, but I maintain that much has been done in this direction by ear-marking the whisky money in the cause of secondary education. I also deny that we have, as Lord Harris appears to think, inflicted any injustice whatever on the ratepayers by the line we have adopted in this Bill.

LORD BURGHCLERE agreed with what had been said by Earl Spencer as to the desirability of higher education being advanced as far as possible, and admitted that we were lamentably behind other nations in that respect. It had been stated that the Government had ear-marked the whisky money for the purpose of technical education. He might be wrong, but that was not his reading of the Clause, which provided that the local education authority—

> "For that purpose shall apply all, or so much as they deem necessary, of the residue under Section 1 of the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, and shall carry forward for the like purpose any balance thereof which may remain unexpended."

Surely, the whole of that was governed by the words "as they deem necessary."

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: They will not be able to spend the money on any other purpose.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said that although this might be so, there was nothing in the Clause to compel them to spend it in this particular way. They might put it in the bank and let it accumulate. It would be better if the Clause provided that the local authority should spend the whisky money year by year on secondary education. The object of the Amendment was to make it compulsory on the local authority to take such steps as were necessary, instead of such steps as seemed to them desirable.

*LORD HARRIS said he would like to have this point cleared up. Would the Bill prevent County Councils from devoting any portion of the whisky money to the relief of the rates?

The DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Yes.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said that he certainly should support the Government if the Amendment were pressed. He regretted that more had not been done to make compulsory or semi-compulsory provision for secondary education, but he thought it was perfectly impossible now so far to alter the measure as to make the radical changes suggested by the noble Earl.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 174; Not-Contents, 33.

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THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved to omit the words "including the training of teachers" from the first part of Clause 2, which read—

> "The local education authority shall consider the educational needs of their area, and take such steps as seem to them desirable, after consultation with the Board of Education, to supply, or aid the supply, of education other than elementary (including the training of teachers), and" etc.

He said: The words I propose to omit are rather out of place in this Clause, and can only limit its operation, inasmuch as the special mention of the training of teachers might be held to exclude other subjects which ought to be included. Clause 23 makes all the provision necessary with reference to this subject of the training of teachers.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, lines 21 and 22, to leave out 'including the training of teachers.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

*EARL SPENCER: If that is the correct view of the matter, and if Clause 23 makes the necessary provision, I will not object to this Amendment. But I should strongly oppose it if I thought its effect would be to give a hint that nothing was to be done with regard to this exceedingly important branch of the subject.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD BURGHCLERE asked what was to become of the whisky money in the event of the local education authority not setting up a secondary school.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It need not set up a school itself but can employ the money in aiding other schools, in scholarships, or in any other way in which it is now employed.

EARL BEAUCHAMP moved the substitution of the words "Board of Education," for "Local Government Board" in the proviso to the effect that the amount raised by the Council of a county under the Act should not exceed a twopenny rate, or such higher rate as the County Council, with the consent of the Local Government Board, might fix. He held that, at a time when the whole of the educational system was being put on a different footing, the body who ought to be applied to for permission under such circumstances was the Board of Education. It was quite true that at the present time the Local Government Board held inquiries when it was a question of raising a loan, but the question in this Clause was one of rating, and, therefore, entirely different.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, to leave out 'Local Government Board,' and to insert 'Board of Education.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The question of the extension or not of the limit of 2d. must be considered in relation to the whole financial responsibilities of the country, and not their educational responsibilities only. The Local Government Board is the Department which is charged with watching over questions affecting the whole expenditure of the country, and the Board of Education has no means of knowing anything beyond such responsibilities as rest upon them in respect of education. Therefore, if any Government Department is to be charged with this duty, I think it must be the Local Government Board.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD DAVEY inquired what means there were in this Clause to stimulate local educational authorities and compel them to do something substantial to promote secondary education. He asked this question because he observed that it was proposed to repeal Section 16, which dealt with School Boards in default.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I should have thought the question of the noble and learned Lord had been already answered in the course of the discussion on this Clause. The duty of supplying adequate elementary school accommodation will be compulsory on the local education authority as it is now on the School Board, but there is no such compulsory obligation upon them for the supplying of secondary education.

LORD DAVEY: That is no answer at all to my question.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said the new Clauses which be proposed to move after Clause 2, though somewhat lengthy, were very innocuous. They were taken without any alteration from the Bill for the provision of technical and secondary education which His Majesty's Government introduced in 1896. Therefore they had the highest sanction, and he hoped His Majesty's Government would see their way to incorporate them in the present Bill. The issue was a simple one—namely, whether the Government were prepared to accept what they recommended in 1896, or whether they were afraid of the measures they then brought forward.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 2, to insert the following new Clauses:—

(A.)—(1) A council, for the purpose of promoting education other than elementary, may, amongst other matters—(*a*) aid any school to provide such education, or, with the consent of the Board of Education, take a transfer of any school which provides such education, and is not an elementary school; and (*b*) establish a school, and for that purpose provide land and buildings, whether by purchase, hiring, or otherwise; and (*c*) establish and maintain scholarships or exhibitions; and (*d*) supply or aid in supplying teachers; and (*e*) make inquiries with respect to the sanitary condition of the school buildings (including boarding houses) of any school within their area; and (*f*) make inquiries with respect to the education given by any school within their area, except a school which, in the opinion of the Board of Education, is of a non-local character; and (*g*) take such measures as they think fit for giving information to the public with respect to the result of such inquiries.

(2.) The exercise of any powers under this section shall require, in the case of an industrial, a day industrial, or a reformatory school, the consent of a Secretary of State, and in the case of a poor law school the consent of the Local Government Board.

(3) A council may guarantee, for a term not exceeding five years, any annual or other periodical payment required for the purposes of this section, and may charge on the proper fund or rate any sum required to fulfil the guarantee.

(4) If a council make it a condition of giving aid under this section, that representatives of the council be added to the trustees or other governing body of the school, and the trustee or other governing body assent to the condition' those representatives shall for all purposes be trustees or members of the governing body of the school.

(B.)—(1) A council in the performance of their duties shall not give any preference or advantage to any school on the ground that it does or does not belong, or is or is not in connection with, or under the management of, any particular church, sect, or denomination, or that religious instruction is or is not given in the school.

(2) The council shall take care that every school aided by them is inspected and examined by such persons and in such manner as may be approved by the Board of Education with reference to the particular class of schools to which the school belongs, and shall satisfy themselves with respect to every such school: (*a*) that the buildings are sufficient and suitable as regards size, sanitary accommodation, convenience, repairs, and otherwise; and (*b*) that the furniture, fittings, and school apparatus are adequate; and (*c*) that there is an adequate staff of teachers; and (*d*) that proper discipline is maintained, that the course of education is sufficient and suitable, that the fees, if any, are suitable, and that the teaching is efficient; and (*e*) that proper accounts are kept showing the receipts and expenditure of the school; and (*f*) that the school is conducted in accordance with such regulations made by or in pursuance of any statute, or made by the Board of Education as are applicable to the school.

(3) Every council shall make such Report and Returns, and give such information to the Board of Education as the Board may from time to time require.—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY did not think they would be strengthening the measure by defining the duties of the Council, as that course would tend to the enumerated branches of education being regarded as more important than those not mentioned. As the result of past experience, the Government had not repeated in this measure the Clause in question from the Act of 1896.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 3:—

EARL BEAUCHAMP moved to give Rural District Councils as well as non-county Borough and Urban District Councils power to spend sums on secondary education up to a rate of 1d. in the pound. The Amendment was a somewhat important one. Their Lordships would notice that it was merely permissive, the idea being to allow the enlightened Rural District Councils the same authority in the matter of secondary education as the Bill gave to Urban District Councils. There were many rural districts which were larger and more important than some of the urban districts to which the Clause gave powers in this respect, and it was difficult to see why they should be denied those powers. The Clause already made so many new authorities that to add to them the Rural District Councils would not be making any great alteration in the principle of the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 8, after 'urban,' to insert 'or rural.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

LORD DAVEY, while not expressing any opinion as to the Amendment, could not help feeling that it came within the question of Privilege, because it enabled a district not named in the Clause to make a new rate.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The effect of the noble Earl's Amendment would undoubtedly be to increase the number of authorities which would be powers in respect of secondary education. I understood that one of the principal complaints urged against the Bill by noble Lords opposite, and especially by the noble Earl himself, was that it did not establish single education authorities; but this proposal would add to the grievance, whatever it might be. The Bill as originally introduced limited the powers under this Clause to boroughs over 10,000, and urban districts over 20,000 inhabitants; that is to say, it limited these powers to those authorities which were made autonomous for the purpose of elementary education. In the course of the discussion, however, it was pointed out that under the Technical Instruction Acts, Urban District Councils already possessed these powers in regard to secondary education, that they had made certain arrangements, and that it would lead to great inconvenience if those powers were taken away from them. The request of these authorities was backed up by the County Councils Association, who desired that this additional rating power which was possessed by the minor authorities should be continued. It appears to me, however, that it is quite unnecessary to place the Rural District Councils in the same category. It is far better, in my opinion, that those authorities which do not possess these powers under the Technical Instruction Acts should not have them conferred upon them, and that in respect to the whole of a county which is not included either in a borough or a large urban district the powers relating to the provision of rating for secondary education should be entirely in the hands of the County Council. I do not know what the experience of other members of this House may be, but being the Chairman of the Rural District Council myself I am bound to say that I cannot imagine any authority less likely to spend any money on the provision of technical or any other form of education than the body over which I have the honour to preside.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said the noble Duke had not answered the question put to him by Lord Davey, who desired to know the opinion of His Majesty's Government with regard to the position of the Amendment. The Amendment proposed to allow Rural District Councils to levy a rate for the purpose of education other than elementary, provided that the same did not exceed a rate of a penny in the pound. Was it competent for that House to pass an Amendment giving to a body which did not possess power to rate in the Bill as it came from the House of Commons, power to impose a rate for any particular purpose ?

VISCOUNT LLANDAFF could not see in what way the Amendment differed from the one upon which their Lordships had already voted, and which would have compelled the County Council to aid secondary education, not where it seemed to them desirable, but wherever it was necessary. That would certainly have increased the rating burden which might be cast either on the county or district.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH contended that the two cases were totally different. In the former case there was no proposal to add to the rate, or to give the authority any new power of rating. The rate was limited by the Clause to 2d. in the pound, and all that was proposed was that the authority should exercise the power which the Clause gave it.

VISCOUNT LLANDAFF presumed that the cases in which it would be necessary to aid secondary education would be more numerous than the cases in which the authority would think it desirable. Otherwise, there would be no object in moving the Amendment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN asked whether it was really necessary for practical purposes to enter into these minute questions. Earl Beauchamp had moved an Amendment, and the Government had given him an answer. If the noble and learned Lord, Lord Davey, thought the noble Earl had gone beyond the powers of the House, the proper course to adopt was, not to ask a question of the Government, or of the Lord Chancellor, but to move that the Amendment be not now put.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

VISCOUNT HALIFAX moved to omit the latter part of the first sub-Section, which provided that "no catechism or formulary distinctive of any particular religious denomination shall be taught or used in any school, college, or hostel" provided by the Council. The words he proposed to omit were words which extended the provisions of the Cowper-Temple Clause into the area of secondary education. They precluded the local education authority from providing any schools, colleges, or hostels, except such as were undenominational and administered under the provisions of the Cowper-Temple Clause. He was sure that they never would solve the religious difficulty attaching to the education question unless they were going to help all denominational or undenominational schools equally and impartially. He did not deny that in some of the larger Board schools the religious teaching had been good, but that was because a large proportion of the teachers had been brought up in denominational colleges. It was obvious that the teaching of an insufficient Christianity might be the teaching of no Christianity at all. If they extended the operation of the Cowper-Temple Clause as proposed it would make any future satisfactory settlement of the education question much more difficult. This was essentially a matter which the local education authority could judge better of than persons at a distance, and he should have thought that it was pre-eminently a matter to leave to the discretion of the local authority. He was glad that Nonconformists should have schools provided for them which would meet their religious convictions; he could not understand why they should not be willing that he should have the same. He asked that the local authority should not, by a Clause in the Bill, be limited to helping only undenominational schools to the exclusion of denominational schools and hostels.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 24, to leave out from 'council' to the end of the sub-Section."—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

Lord COLCHESTER joined with the noble Viscount who had just sat down in asking that these local education bodies should be trusted and allowed to decide according to the requirements of each case. This was a matter pre-eminently fitted to be left to the local education committee. They should follow the principle of the Endowed Schools Act rather than adopt the unfortunate Clause of the Act of 1870. What was done under the Endowed Schools Act, in the case of foundations which were not denominational, was in the first instance to require religious instruction to be given, and, secondly, to lay down that it should be according to the principles of the Christian faith, leaving the governing bodies power to interpret that as they thought fit. Why would not a similar provision be sufficient in the case of the schools set up by this Bill? Moreover, the wording of the Cowper-Temple Clause was ambiguous, and could be very easily evaded. When he was a member of the London School Board, they had deputation after deputation asking them to keep to the spirit of the Cowper-Temple Clause. What was the spirit of that Clause? He had put the question to the deputation as to what they meant by the spirit of the Clause, but none of the answers agreed. It passed the wit of man to understand what the spirit of the Clause was. Its form was thoroughly bad, and its provision should not be extended into the area of secondary education. Had there been religious peace in the School Board as a result of that Clause? He had been for three years a member of the London School Board, but did not find it. He asked that the local education bodies should be trusted, and should not have thrown upon them the stigma that they were unworthy to decide this important question.

*The LORD BISHOP of ST. ASAPH did not intend to enter upon any academic discussion of the Cowper-Temple Clause. But Wales supplied valuable evidence on this point. The Welsh Intermediate Act of 1889 was in its religious provisions built up upon this Clause. Many still regarded that Act as defective, if not unfair. It was, therefore, at first viewed with some distrust. All that had now disappeared, and he frankly recognised that many of the dangers anticipated had not been realised. In the schemes under the Act there had been some over-straining of the Cowper-Temple Clause, but the Amendment of Viscount Goschen, if adopted, would render that impossible for the future. The Cowper-Temple Clause had certainly saved them much sectarian wrangling in their secondary schools in Wales.

The LORD BISHOP of SALISBURY asked the Government to state what course they intended to pursue towards Viscount Goschen's Amendment, which proposed that the local education authority might, "at the request of parents of scholars, or on other grounds, allow any religious instruction to be given in the school, college, or hostel, otherwise than at the cost of the authority." He did not wish that denominational education should be endowed at the cost of the State, but he did think it was the duty of the State to allow the parents of children who attended secondary schools to have such religious instruction, at the cost of the denomination, as might reasonably be given to them.

*LORD STANMORE expressed his own dislike of the Cowper-Temple Clause, but said he presumed the noble Viscount had brought his Amendment forward more with a view of airing his own distaste for the Clause than with any hope of obtaining from the House of Lords a reversal of the decision of the other House on this point. He (Lord Stanmore) remarked upon the great and significant change in the language now used by noble Lords on the other side of the House as compared with that held during the debates on the Education Bill of 1870. It would be remembered how much they heard at that time of undenominational Christianity, which was what was to be taught under the Cowper-Temple Clause. He noticed that no noble Lord had said anything on this Bill about undenominational Christianity. What they spoke of was undenominational religion. There was a considerable difference between the two. Moreover, he noticed that those noble Lords seemed to consider that the words "undenominational" and "undogmatic" were convertable terms, that they were synonymous and meant the same thing. Even the noble Earl who moved the rejection of the Bill, and whose moderation, sincerity, and fairness made him a leader whom he for one would love to follow if he could only agree with him, used the words as if they were the same Undenominational Christianity was a thing one could conceive, but undogmatic Christianity was a thing which had no existence. Undenominational religion was a very different thing to undenominational Christianity, because the latter, however wide, did preserve the essential dogmas of belief in Christ. Undenominational religion went further, and would include the Jew, the Agnostic, and the Mahomedan, but when they used the words "undogmatic religion" they pronounced that which could not exist, for religion began with a dogma. Even if they reduced it to the very lowest expression, and made it undenominational religion, even then they had dogma. Even if they reduced the religion that was taught to simply the first Article in the Creed, "I believe in God," was not that an enormous dogma? It was, in itself, a dogma which completely put out of the question the idea of there being such a thing as undogmatic religion. They would find that undenominational Christianity soon became undenominational religion, which, if they pursued it logically, became religion without any dogma at all—that was to say, no religion.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, I cannot, of course, treat the Amendment moved by my noble friend opposite as one which is in any degree hostile to the principle of the Bill, for the Bill, as it was originally introduced, did not contain the provision he now seeks to strike out. We have always considered that while it would be a great advantage, for some of the reasons which have been stated by the noble Lord opposite and also by the noble Lord behind me, to leave the authorities a perfectly free hand in the matter, it would be very difficult, as long as the Cowper-Temple Clause remained part of the law in regard to rate-provided elementary schools, to resist its application to schools for providing education other than elementary. The proviso which it is now sought to strike out was introduced by Sir William Anson when a private Member of Parliament; and, as the hon. Gentleman was the representative of Oxford University, his Amendment cannot be supposed to have been moved in any hostile spirit either to the Government or to the Church of England. The main argument, in my opinion, for the retention of this provision is that which was referred to by the noble Lord behind me. He has said he has not found in his experience that the Cowper-Temple Clause has brought about peace. On the other hand, would not the omission of this proviso be extremely likely to produce in every local authority a spirit of strife on religious topics which would not be conducive to the interests of peace? I fully admit that there is much in what has been urged by noble Lords opposite and behind me; but I ask them to consider in how many cases it is in the slightest degree probable that a local authority established under this Bill would desire to build and maintain a denominational college, and whether it is worth while, for the extremely small practical effect which the Amendment can ever be likely to have, to introduce into the discussions of every local authority created under the Bill so fruitful a subject of religious controversy? In anything that I have said with regard to this Amendment I do not wish to exclude myself or the Government from a perfectly fair consideration of the Amendment which my noble friend Lord Goschen proposes to move. I understand from some observations made by one right rev. Prelate that the acceptance of that Amendment would be preferable to the acceptance even of that which has been moved by the noble Viscount opposite; but I will not discuss that point till we come to the Amendment itself. I only wish to say that in opposing, as I am obliged to do, the Amendment moved by the noble Earl opposite, I do not in the least desire to commit ourselves as to the view which we shall take on the next Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said he was glad to hear, in the last few words of the noble Duke, that he was prepared to give a fair consideration to his Amendment. He moved to add, after the provision that no formulary distinctive of any particular denomination shall be taught or used in any school, college, or hostel provided by the local authority, the following words:—"Except in cases where the local education authority, at the request of the parents or scholars, or on other grounds, allow any religious instruction to be given in the school, college, or hostel otherwise than at the cost of the authority." He said that the Clause as it stood for the first time riveted upon secondary education the Cowper-Temple Clause; and that was a very serious step. They had been assured by noble Lords opposite and by certain Nonconformist gentlemen that everything was to be done to maintain the Nonconformist grievance when this Bill was passed; and he feared that some remarks made by a noble Earl opposite might have a very baneful effect upon the working of the Bill. If agitation was to continue there should be some relaxation from the Cowper-Temple Clause by permissive means. He asked the noble Duke whether he would allow the local authority, when the parents demanded it, or when the circumstances seemed to render it necessary, to permit denominational education to be given in those schools, colleges, and hostels at the cost of the denomination. That would establish a right of entry, which would be a useful precedent.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 26, after 'provided' to insert 'except in cases where the local education authority, at the request of parents of scholars, or on other grounds, allow any religious instruction to be given in the school, college, or hostel otherwise than at the cost of the authority.'"—(*Viscount Goschen.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER said that while the Amendment of Viscount Halifax, if pressed to a division, might have proved extremely controversial, he could not help hoping the Amendment now before the Committee would be found to be very uncontroversial. It was no doubt a very serious thing to extend the domination of the Cowper-Temple Clause, because it represented a doctrine which denominationalists had never been able to accept. In some of the speeches in connection with the Bill grave attacks had been made on the Episcopal Bench, and those who agreed with its occupants, on the ground that they were trying to get so much for themselves. Noble Lords seemed not always to remember that if undenominationalists had consciences, so also had denominationalists, and their desire to find a place in the national system of education for that form of instruction which they conscientiously believed to be the best was not always a sign of greed or of grab. They were contending for what seemed to them to be the principle of justice and religious freedom. For these reasons he would have felt compelled to support the noble Viscount had he taken to a division his Amendment to omit a Clause which had always been made the symbol of that particular form of orthodoxy which said the State might support undenominational religion but no other, and of which they had heard many professions of late, both in this House and in another place.

The present Amendment, however, might be approached in an altogether different spirit. It was not always sufficiently observed that the Cowper-Temple Clause had two effects, both important, but each separable from the other. One was that the teaching supplied by the State should be of a certain character—that distinctive formularies should not be taught, and so forth. That was an extremely important affirmation, in favour of which there were not only reasons of convenience, but reasons standing on a higher plane than convenience—viz., reasons of peace. But the Cowper-Temple Clause had also a negative or exclusive effect in that it shut out any other form of teaching, even though it were provided by other than public authorities. Surely that was a condition of things which might be departed from. He had noticed in the speeches of the Chairman of the London School Board and of Earl Spencer words to this effect: "By all means let the denominationalists teach their own children, but let them do it at their own expense." The expression was, of course, used in a different connection, but he thought it applied equally to the present proposal. What they asked was, not that the local authority should be compelled, against its will, to admit this teaching, but that where the local authority took the view of the denominationalists as to what made for justice and religious freedom it should allow denominationalists to come in, and, at their own expense, give instruction after their own fashion to the scholars and students. In many of these institutions the students would not be children, and that led him to point out that in several ways the application of the Cowper-Temple Clause to secondary schools differed from its application to primary schools. It was often said by the advocates of undenominational teaching that children could take in only the very simple elements of religion, and that the denominationalists desired to force upon them elaborate doctrines which their minds were incapable of understanding. Without discussing the value of that argument, he thought all would agree that it applied with nothing approaching the same force to young people of greater age, and still less to such as would come under the operation of the Clause in training colleges. To his mind it would plainly make for liberty and advance the interests of the local authorities to say that even in institutions provided by them, and in which the whole of the teaching provided at their expense was absolutely undenominational, there should be opportunities afforded for young people to be instructed in the principles of the religious denomination to which they belonged.

The Amendment might further be supported by arguments of convenience. Although not a practical expert in these matters, he believed he was right in saying that in secondary schools there was a greater variety of subjects taught, and more specialisation, and, consequently, more grouping of the scholars in various ways. It would therefore be much less marked and exceptional to have denominational students grouped from time to time for religious instruction. The buildings, also, would probably lend themselves more to such special classes and arrangements than would the buildings of primary schools. Moreover, secondary institutions would, in the nature of the case, more often be of a central character; there would not be so many of them, and consequently students would have fewer options as to the schools they should attend. In many cases the particular training college or secondary school would be the only one in a large district; therefore the plea that in such institutions opportunity should be provided for students of different religious convictions to be instructed in the principles of their particular denominations had much to support it. He did not believe there would be any difficulty in working such a system. Lord Shand, if he were present, would have been able to tell the House from his own experience that he had worked such a system very effectively, and that instead of setting persons of different religious convictions sparring and jarring with one another, as was sometimes alleged would be the result of such a plan, it had led to mutual respect for the sincerity of each other's views. The acceptance of the Amendment would be a valuable concession to feelings held by many people if the Government would consent to make it. More than once it had been said by noble Lords on the other side that if differences of opinion were to be provided for it should be on the basis of allowing facilities for the different convictions to organise and express themseves side by side. He hoped, therefore, in all sincerity and truth, and not in any controversial spirit, that noble Lords opposite would feel that by supporting the Amendment they would be assisting to keep the door ajar for a plan for which they themselves looked for some advantage to the future of education in this country.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said that he, at all events, was not convinced by the arguments which had been adduced in support of the Amendment. Without going into the theological question at all, he objected to the Amendment on the ground that it would break into the unity of our educational system. To all elementary schools the Cowper-Temple Clause applied. The secondary schools were now to be under and aided by the local authority, and the House of Commons had decided by a very large majority—only 29 voting against it—that to these new secondary schools the Cowper-Temple Clause should apply also. The Amendment was simply a proposal largely to nullify the application of the Clause, and, if it were inserted in the Bill, he believed there would be great risk of serious contention arising. The local authority were to be given a considerable power of discretion with regard to allowing religious instruction. They might do so, not only at the request of parents, but also "on other grounds." Those "other grounds" would have to be at the discretion of the local education authority, so that it was perfectly possible that, contrary to the wishes of a considerable number of the parents of scholars attending a particular school, the teaching of religious formularies might be introduced. In order to keep undisturbed the unity of our educational system, the same rule that applied to schools for elementary education should be applied to schools for secondary education. It was desirable, therefore, that the Amendment should not be accepted.

The Lord Bishop of Rochester.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX pointed out that the noble Lord, in speaking of the unity of our educational arrangements, had been a little misinformed. At Birmingham, facilities were provided in the board schools for this religious education to be given. The Prime Minister also had been a little misinformed in some of the information he had placed before the House of Commons on this point, and during the last week or ten days there had appeared in the Press letters from persons of authority in Birmingham pointing out that definite religious teaching, at the expense of the various denominations, was permitted in the board schools of Birmingham, and that the system had met with a considerable amount of success. Therefore, the argument as to the unity of our educational system in this matter was not founded on fact.

*THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL, speaking neither as a Churchman nor as a Liberal, but for Education, said he had felt the deepest regret that the effect of this Bill had not been to establish a uniform system of national education for elementary schools, with the essential condition that there should be perfect freedom of religious teaching in all the schools under the system. He believed that that was the only basis on which this question would be finally settled. He accepted the Bill as a transition stage towards that end, as the only stage from which it could be reached. It was still more important and reasonable that that liberty should be provided in secondary schools, and, speaking as an old schoolmaster, he believed that the prospect of such schools being established would be materially diminished if parents felt that their children, at the age at which they would be sent to these schools, were to be restricted in the matter of religious education by the limitations of the Cowper-Temple Clause. Parents, in his opinion, did not generally desire their children to be brought up in one set of tenets, or to be instructed in no tenets at all. In the case of elementary schools the children caught their religion at home, and it did not so much signify, in the opinion of many parents, that they were taught undenominationally at school; but in the case of children attending secondary schools, parents naturally ded that the religion of their growing years should be formed, moulded, and explained by the education they were receiving at that age where the children of Church of England parents ought to be confirmed and prepared for the Holy Communion. He thought, therefore, it would not further the development of secondary schools by the local authorities if they were prevented from allowing liberty of religious teaching in whatever form might seem to them most convenient.

*THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD said the noble Lord opposite had most properly placed his finger on the words "or on other grounds," because they formed the portion of the Amendment most likely to cause disquiet in many minds. If those words could be omitted he would heartily support the Amendment. His twenty-five years experience as headmaster of public schools had shown him that with this Amendment the Clause would almost exactly represent the actual practice at nearly all public schools. The main portion of the religious instruction was biblical instruction, but special instruction, such as in the preparation of candidates for confirmation and Holy Communion, was given to those boys whose parents desired it. If, however, the words "or on other grounds" were adhered to, he feared they would never get rid of suspicion, anxiety, and controversy.

LORD RIBBLESDALE expressed great sympathy with the Amendment, and said that if the words "or on other grounds" were omitted and the words "to the children of such parents" inserted after "given," he would support it. The position of the local authority as "the arbiter of all educational matters"—to use the words of the Prime Minister—was amply safeguarded.

*LORD REAY felt bound to take notice of an expression used by the Bishop of Rochester to the effect that undenominational religion was the religion of those who were satisfied with the Cowper-Temple Clause. There was great confusion on that point. The parents who sent their children to board schools, and who, after the passing of this Bill, would send them to provided schools, were just as loyal to their own denominations as parents who sent their children to voluntary schools. In the schools under the London School Board there were many children of Church of England parents, so that it was hardly correct to say—as Lord Halifax had maintained—that such parents were dissatisfied with the religious teaching under the Cowper-Temple Clause. Moreover, under that Clause dogmatic teaching could be given. The teaching was not denominational, but it was dogmatic. It was teaching common to many denominations, and instead of being called undenominational it might more accurately be called "multi-denominational." He could assure the noble Viscount that the doctrines of the Incarnation and the Resurrection could be and were taught under the Cowper-Temple Clause, but there were certain formularies which could not be so taught, and these would have to be taught supplementarily by the various Churches.

With regard to the particular Amendment before the Committee, he wanted an assurance that if, with the alterations which had been suggested by Lord Ribblesdale, it were agreed to, the House would not be told, when they reached the elementary part of the Bill, that it ought also to apply in that case. From his experience on the London School Board he agreed with what the Prime Minister had said in another place, that it would be impracticable in elementary schools, but with regard to secondary education he thought the circumstances were somewhat different. In reply to the question of Lord Colchester, he could only repeat that his experience in connection with School Board work in London was that the Cowper-Temple Clause had been an absolute safeguard against religious strife.

LORD COLCHESTER: What I said was that I believed there was now a calm after the storm, but that there had been the greatest disputes as to the spirit of the Cowper-Temple Clause.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK hoped the words "or on other grounds" would not be omitted from the Amendment; the matter would be perfectly safeguarded by the local authority.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY also asked that the words should not be withdrawn. In the training colleges there would be young people up to the age of twenty-two years, many of whom would have no parents living. Surely young people of that age, and those old enough to be confirmed, had a right to speak for themselves, and to have their religious convictions respected.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN pointed out that no Motion had yet been made to omit the words "or on other grounds."

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said he would not be able to assent to either of the changes which had been suggested. It had been strongly urged that confidence should be placed in the local authorities in these matters, and that as they were to be entrusted with the vast powers proposed in the Bill, they might very well be trusted to exercise wisely this purely permissive provision. To omit the words "or on other grounds" would make the enactment too restricted, because, as had been pointed out, there were many scholars who had no parents. Moreover, they had to deal with training colleges and with older children than those in elementary schools. In fact there were many grounds that might be urged against the omission. To bring the Clause into operation would require a little organisation. It would be necessary to know that there were a sufficient number of children to form a class, and a certain amount of money would have to be raised. A single parent could not make the demand; there would have to be a general feeling among the parents of the locality, or some other ground on which to the local authority it seemed good to exercise the power. He really thought noble Lords opposite must find it difficult to object to the proposal. It was impossible to have absolute unity between elementary and secondary education, and, although he would much like to see a similar power given with regard to elementary schools, he would promise not to appeal to this Amendment as a precedent when the Committee came to consider the part of the Bill dealing with elementary education.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not think it would be possible to omit the words to which objection has been taken without making the Amendment almost ineffective. The omission of the words "or on other grounds" would seem to imply that the consent of every individual parent was to be obtained. It might be necessary in many cases to make certain arrangements in anticipation, and then in case of uncertainty with regard to the wishes of the parents the whole scheme would fall through. Then I conceive that one of the "other grounds" which my noble friend had in mind was that the Clause would apply especially to training colleges, and that the local authority might consider it extremely desirable, having regard to the needs of a considerable number of denominational schools within their area, to allow provision to be made for the religious training of the teachers to be employed in those schools. That is a ground which I imagine the local authority would take into consideration, besides the wishes of the parents concerned. The Amendment has met with so much support, and so little actual opposition, that I need say very little about it. As to the objection that it would destroy the unity of our educational system, I do not think there is any unity to be destroyed. I understand the noble Earl's argument to be that because a hard and fast Cowper-Temple Clause applied to elementary schools a hard and fast Cowper-Temple Clause ought also to apply to secondary schools. I would point out that Parliament has always made a difference between elementary and secondary schools with regard to religious instruction. Not only must every board school have a Cowper-Temple Clause, but under the existing law a School Board cannot aid a denominational school. But that has never been the case under the Technical Instruction Acts. Under the Technical Instruction Acts the existing local authorities may aid, have aided, and do aid very largely, denominational institutions, subject only to the protection of a Conscience Clause. I venture to think, therefore, that there has never been that unity in our educational system which the noble Earl claims for it. Taking into consideration the large amount of support which the proposal has received and the fact that it would be likely to mitigate the hardship and inconvenience entailed by a hard-and-fast Cower-Temple Clause, and believing also that it is a power which many local authorities will welcome, I have no hesitation in giving, on the part of the Government, their assent to the Amendment.

EARL SPENCER: I feel that I must say a few words on this subject, because I was one of those who in the Second Reading debate said that, although satisfied with the Cowper-Temple Clause, I should not object, under certain circumstances, to an arrangement being made by which some denominational teaching might be given in the schools. I have carefully followed the debate, and, reluctantly, I confess, come to the conclusion that I shall not be able to vote for the Amendment. My reasons are the same as those put forward by my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth. I do not see that there is any sufficient ground for making this difference between the secondary and the elementary schools. If the Cowper-Temple Clause is to rule in the provided schools, I say that the same stipulation should apply to the others also. I am encouraged in that belief by the speech of, I think, the Bishop of St. Asaph, when he spoke of his views having completely changed in Wales, with regard to the application of the Cowper-Temple Clause to secondary schools. That fact ought to strengthen us in supporting the Bill as it stands rather than in inserting the Amendment of the noble Viscount which, to a great extent, gets round that Clause. If the Bill had been framed so as to give complete popular control, a great deal might have been done in this direction. It would then have been somewhat on the lines of the Scottish system; great latitude might have been allowed to particular schools in the introduction of some such plan as is now proposed, and we should have had something approaching unity. I agree with the noble Duke that that unity does not at present exist, but it must be remembered that the Bill was framed with the object of increasing the unity between the different branches of education.

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Addington, L.
Allerton, L.
Arundell of Wardour, L.
Ashbourne, L.

Balfour, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Boston, L.
Braye, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Colchester, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
Dormer, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Erskine, L.
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Glanusk, L.
Glenesk, L.
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Harris, L.
Hatherton, L.
Herries, L.
Hothfield, L.
Howard of Glossop, L.
James, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Mendip, L. (*V. Clifden.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
North, L.

Petre, L.
Robertson, L.
Rowton, L.
Seaton, L.
Stanmore, L.
Teynham, L.
Tredegar, L.
Wentworth, L.
Windsor, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E. [*Teller.*]
Portsmouth, E.
Spencer, E.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Coleridge, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Kinnaird, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Tweedmouth, L.

EARL BEAUCHAMP, in moving to omit the words "attending as a day or evening scholar," said his Amendment practically covered the Nonconformist grievance in regard to training colleges, and, if carried, would remove that grievance. Whatever might be the nominal object of the training colleges, they were, as a matter of fact, largely supported by the State, although they chiefly belonged to one religious denomination or another. The whole position of the teachers was exceedingly anomalous. Every year 3,000 students became entitled to places in the training colleges, but there were nothing like sufficient places for them. In residential colleges there were 2,083 places, and 730 in day colleges, the latter being undenominational, while only 397 places out of the 2,083 residential places were undenominational, and a large proportion even of those were filled by Church of England teachers. There were, therefore, very few places with which to satisfy the demand made by Nonconformists. But the really important thing was the amount of support given to these colleges by the State. The Oxford diocesan training college had an income from private sources of £117, while it received from the State and fees no less than £1800, so that 94 per cent. of its income came from the State, against 6 per cent. from the Church of England, and yet that institution was maintained as a Church of England institution, to which students belonging to other denominations could not gain admittance. Another instance was that of the Culham Diocesan College, where, according to the accounts for the year ending June 30th, 1901, the subscriptions from voluntary sources were £233, against £5,000 from the Government. If this Amendment were adopted, the position would be exactly the same in all training colleges, whether Church of England, Roman Catholic, or Nonconformist. He was not bound to the particular form of words on the Paper, but would be willing to accept any proposal which would do away with this undoubted grievance. It might be urged that as the colleges were built by the denomination, they therefore belonged to the denomination. But there was a fallacy underlying that argument. The total cost of building the Church of England training colleges was £293,000, towards which the State contributed £97,470, or, roughly speaking, one third. In view of the fact that a very large proportion of the annual cost of the upkeep also came from the State, he thought the State was justified in asking for a Conscience Clause in connection with these colleges. Those who made that request were strengthened in their demand by the opinion of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who on one occasion described the present system as "an antiquity." To show how the system worked out he mentioned a case of a Nonconformist teacher who passed very high on the list, and yet was passed over in favour of a Church of England teacher, who was more than a thousand places lower on the list. Obviously, it was much better to make it easy for a Nonconformist who passed high on the list to enter these colleges than for the State to take a teacher lower on the list whatever might be his or her religion, simply because that teacher happened to belong to a particular denomination. This question was regarded by Nonconformists as one of extreme importance, and he should therefore press the Amendment to a division. It was to the interest of the nation to get the best teachers, of whatever denomination they might be, and he hoped the amicable spirit which prevailed in the House would result in some Amendment being secured by which satisfaction would be given to the great Nonconformist communities of the country.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL suggested that this Clause was hardly a convenient place for the alteration, inasmuch as it dealt rather with boarding-houses and schools than with training colleges, and if the Amendment were carried scholars would be able to claim to stay in these boarding-houses or schools without being required to attend any religious service, or to receive any religious instruction at all.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said he would like the advice of the noble Earl, his leader; but personally, if the right rev. Prelate thought the Amendment would come in better in another part of the Bill, he was prepared to postpone it.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL said it was eminently desirable that Nonconformist teachers should be enabled to enter these colleges, but he thought the Amendment would be rather inconvenient in the Clause under discussion.

THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD thought the object of the noble Earl would be better met by an Amendment standing in his own name lower on the Paper, by which the House would be asked to provide that in every aided school or college at which boarders were received, the local authority should require suitable boarding arrangements to be made for the reception of boarders whose parents belonged to different religious denominations. The intention of that Amendment would be to exempt students from attendance at religious observances and religious teaching to which the parents objected. Section (1) of Clause 4 dealt with boarders, and it might be practically very inconvenient if a Conscience Clause were inserted in regard to boarding schools, so that individual children could claim the privileges of it. Every necessary privilege would, he thought, be secured without any inconvenience whatever by the Amendment of which he had given notice.

*LORD KINNAIRD said that in order to show the need for a Conscience Clause for the protection of those who did not hold the tenets of the Church of England, or who held Low Church views, he might refer to a book which was of some importance, because written by one who for eighteen years was the principal of a Church Training College. He believed their Lordships would agree that children required protection from such teaching as this:—

> "Church schools are, in fact, worthy of the name of Church nurseries, where the young plants are guarded, watched, and tended, so that they may grow up into goodly trees . . . . They should be Church grounds for drill and exercise, where the young soldiers of Christ's army are taught to use the Christian armour."

The writer then went on to show what the true ideal of Church teaching should be:—

> "That the Bible is emphatically the Church's Book, to which the Dissenters have no more right than have deserters to the drill and the text books of the army from which they have seceded."

*EARL SPENCER: As my noble friend appealed to me as to what I would advise in this matter, I confess that I would much prefer that he should go on with his Amendment. If I had to choose between the Amendment of the Bishop of Hereford and the one now before the Committee I would prefer the simpler method of the latter. I think the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate might lead to considerable difficulty. It might be very difficult to provide suitable boarding arrangements, but I can see no objection to omitting words as proposed by my noble friend. This question is one of the most important in the whole Bill, and, as far as I can see, to omit these words, and thereby to guard the consciences of any Dissenters who go to the boarding houses or hostels or schools, will largely diminish the great injustice of which Nonconformists now complain.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I could not very well follow the argument of the noble Earl who moved the Amendment, as I heard him but imperfectly. I gathered, however, that he rested his case mainly on the question of the denominational training colleges which he produced figures to show received an amount of assistance from the State very disproportionate to the small amount of assistance received from private sources. I venture to think that that is a subject with which it is unnecessary to deal by legislation. The assistance which denominational colleges receive is undoubtedly very large, and a perfectly legitimate subject for consideration, but it is one which may be dealt with either in the other House on the Estimates, or in this House on the Code which is annually presented. I do not think, therefore, it is necessary to pass such an Amendment as that now proposed in order to deal with what may possibly be the excessive provision made by the State for training colleges. The effect of the Amendment would be extremely serious, and would be going far beyond the law as it at present stands in the Technical Instruction Acts. It would be almost impossible for a denominational training college to accept aid from a local authority if these words were admitted. A certain amount of discipline of a religious character, such as attendance at morning and evening prayer, is a necessity, or approaches thereto, in a denominational school and for the boarders in that school, and such a provision is a necessary part of the discipline of a college. There are many strictly denominational colleges and Roman Catholic institutions receiving aid from the local authorities under the Technical Instruction Acts. By adopting this Amendment you would insist on those colleges and institutions adopting a Conscience Clause for boarders, for whom they are not intended, and whom they do not wish to admit. That a Conscience Clause should be applied in the case of day scholars is perfectly right. It is quite possible, even in the case of a Roman Catholic institution aided by the local authority, for the day classes to be attended by scholars who do not belong to the denomination, and for their protection a Conscience Clause is undoubtedly necessary. But why, because the Roman Catholic Church or the Church of England have established boarding schools intended exclusively for the education of their own children, are they to be excluded from the receipt of aid unless they propose to extend the advantages of those institutions to others than members of their own denomination? The Government certainly cannot accept the Amendment.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH thought the noble Duke had gone further than the case warranted. It was not proposed by the Amendment that religious instruction should not be given in these schools, or that the scholars should not be required to attend chapel, and so forth. It was perfectly clear that if these words were omitted the schools and colleges concerned would be able, for the benefit of scholars belonging to the particular denomination, to conduct religious services and to give religious instruction in the way they were at present doing. The effect of the Amendment would simply be to allow scholars of other denominations to attend the schools or colleges, without being required to attend those services or to receive that instruction. That course was now taken in many colleges at Oxford, and might very well be extended to the institutions to which this Clause of the Bill applied. It would not in any way interfere with the power of an institution to give whatever instruction it desired to the members of its own denomination, but at the same time, in consideration of the assistance received from public funds, it would be required to accept scholars from other denominations without those scholars being compelled to attend that instruction.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Would it be possible for a denominational institution to accept as a boarder a pupil who not only did not attend the religious instruction of the institution, but who did not attend any at all?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: It is done at Oxford at this moment.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE said this was really a very serious question. If there were sufficient accommodation in the training colleges he had no complaint to make of the proposal, but would feel that it was necessary that students who did not belong to the denomination of the college should be permitted to claim some of the vacant places. But the training college accommodation was altogether inadequate. He hoped that this Bill would lead local authorities to open training colleges, to which doubtless there would be the fullest possible freedom of admission. As one who had been connected with one or two of these training colleges, he knew it would be exceedingly difficult to carry on the discipline of the institutions, and to supply the teachers required in the denominational schools connected with those colleges, if the Amendment were accepted. He hoped, therefore, it would not be pressed; if it were, he should certainly vote against it.

LORD BURGHCLERE pointed out that the argument of the Bishop of Newcastle hardly met the case. The right rev. Prelate had admitted the existence of a great deficiency of teachers, and expressed the hope that more colleges would be opened. But why, because there were so few teachers at the present moment, should they cut off, by insisting on the provision of the Bill, that supply of teachers which would be produced by the Amendment? He could see absolutely no harm in the proposal. Both at Oxford and Cambridge, and also at Harrow, students of all denominations—including Hindus, Parsees, and so forth—were afforded education, without being required to attend the religious services. Under the circumstances he thought it only reasonable that the Amendment should be accepted.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I do not for a moment deny the importance of the Amendment. It was discussed at considerable length in the other House, and the conclusion then arrived at was that considerable difference existed between residential colleges and hostels in which there were day scholars. I agree with the right rev. Prelate that it is absolutely necessary, in order to maintain, not only the spirit of the religious instruction, but also discipline, that this Amendment should not be inserted. No pressure whatever is put upon those who attend these colleges and live outside; but I think your Lordships will allow that, in whatever house or college you may have been, there was a religious service daily carried on, which not only maintained the religious atmosphere, but also discipline.

*EARL SPENCER: At Harrow there were many Siamese; I do not think they were ordered to attend chapel.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: But perhaps they had services or prayers in their own house. I maintain that if the Amendment were accepted, it would upset all the necessary arrangements for the management of these schools or colleges, and restrict very largely the number of institutions which could receive aid at the present moment without sacrificing their denominational character. It is, therefore, impossible for the Government to agree to this proposal.

LORD BURGHCLERE said it had been held to be highly reprehensible in the interests of religion to turn attendance at chapel or prayers into a mere calling over, and he believed it was now the general practice at both Oxford and Cambridge, and in the public schools, not to call upon persons of other denominations to attend the various services or chapels.

EARL BEAUCHAMP expressed his thanks for the words of the Bishop of Southwell which would, he believed, be read in many Nonconformist circles with deep sympathy and interest. This matter was undoubtedly felt to be a substantial grievance by all the Nonconformists in the country, and he hoped their Lordships would do something to remedy that grievance.

On Question, "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 121; Not-Contents, 19.

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Somerset, D.

Ailesbury, M.
Bath, M.
Camden, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Winchester, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Abingdon, E.
Bathurst, E.
Belmore, E.
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Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
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Hardwicke, E.
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Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
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Cross, V.
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Ely, L. Bp.
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Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Manchester, L. Bp.
Newcastle, L. Bp.
Ripon, L. Bp.
Rochester, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
Salisbury, L. Bp.
Southwell, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Addington, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Boston, L.
Braybrooke, L.
Braye, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Chelmsford, L.
Clifford and Chudleigh, L.
Colchester, L.
Congleton, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
Dormer, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Ellenborough, L.
Elphinstone, L.
Erskine, L.
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Glanusk, L.
Glenesk, L.
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Harris, L.
Hatherton, L.
Herries, L.
Hothfield, L.
Howard of Glossop, L.
Hylton, L.
James, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*
Lawrence, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby*).
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Mostyn, L.
Mount Stephen, L.
Petre, L.
Revelstoke, L.
Robertson, L.
Rothschild, L.
Seaton, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
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Tredegar, L.
Wenlock, L.
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NOT-CONTENTS.

Beauchamp, E. [*Teller.*]
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E. [*Teller.*]
Spencer, E.

Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Coleridge, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L,
Farrer, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Mendip, L. (*V. Clifden.*)
Monkswell, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Tweedmouth, L.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD moved an Amendment to provide that in every aided school and college the local education authority should appoin two members of the governing body. He said the proposal expressed the desire to insert the kind of compromise which existed in the Endowed Schools Act, and simply affirmed the principle that wherever a local authority gave support to an institution it ought to be represented on the managing body of that institution.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 38, after 'therefrom' to insert '(3) in every aided school or college the local education authority shall appoint two members of the governing body.'"—(*Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I am afraid it is impossible for the Government to agree to the Amendment. In the first place, the main principle of this Measure is to enable the County Council to make its own arrangements, and if we were to accept the Amendment of the right reverend Prelate that would at once strike a blow at the very foundation of the Bill. The Amendment is a reversal of the principle of sub-Section 1 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889. The provision was alluded to by Lord Rosebery on Friday night, and after his speech on that occasion I do not think the noble Earl, if he were present, would support this Amendment. The effect of the proposal of the right rev. Prelate would be to prevent the local authority from founding scholarships at schools whose governors did not consent to the appointment of two members by the education authority. Therefore, in the interests of higher education I maintain that it would not be right or just were your Lordships to accept the Amendment.

*The LORD BISHOP of HEREFORD asked for the reference made by the noble Marquess to another Section in the Bill.

The Marquess of LONDONDERRY: I referred to a Section in the Technical Instruction Act, 1889. It is diametrically opposed to that Section.

*The LORD BISHOP of HEREFORD: Then the Endowed Schools Act is diametrically opposed to the Technical Instruction Act.

The Marquess of LONDONDERRY: I did not say that, but that the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate is a reversal of the principle of sub-Section 1 of the Technical Instruction Act.

*The LORD BISHOP of HEREFORD then asked if the Government would be willing to accept the Amendment if the word "may" was substituted for the word "shall."

The Marquess of LONDONDERRY: I think the whole principle of the Amendment is to take away from the County Council the power which we intend to give them, and as such I do not think I can accept it in any form.

*The LORD BISHOP of HEREFORD: Then I understand that the noble Marquess leaves it to the local education authority in each case to initiate the terms on which they will give aid.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*The LORD BISHOP of HEREFORD moved an Amendment to provide that the consent of the local authority should be required for the dismissal of teachers in all schools and colleges provided or aided under Part II. of the Bill, and that any dismissed teacher might appeal to the Board of Education, whose decision should be final. He said there was a very strong and general feeling among assistant masters that it was not fair to such a profession as theirs that they should be subject, as they would be unless this Amendment were carried, to arbitrary dismissal without appeal of any sort. It was contrary to the ordinary English practice that they should not have an opportunity of appeal. Those who were at all familiar with school matters were constantly coming across cases in which justice seemed to require that an appeal should be allowed, so as to afford an opportunity for some investigation. He therefore ventured to move the Amendment on behalf of a vast number of educated men engaged in secondary schools, believing it to be an Amendment which would afford them a reasonable security in the exercise of their professional duties and with a confident hope that the Government would make the concession asked for.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 38, to insert, '(4) The consent of the local education authority shall be required for dismissal of teachers in all schools and colleges provided or aided by the said authority under Part II. of this Act, and any teacher dismissed from one of the said schools or colleges may appeal to the Board of Education, whose decision shall be final.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

The Marquess of LONDONDERRY: I am afraid I must again ask your Lordships not to agree to the Amendment. I need not say that anything like injustice to teachers would receive no support whatever from the Board of Education. But the Amendment of the right reverend Prelate would prevent secondary schools of a high character under governing bodies being made available for secondary education under Part II. of this Act, unless the authority was about to provide a very large subsidy for the benefit of the school. No governing body would hand over to the contributors of only a small part of the income of the school such a very important detail of the management as the control over the dismissal of teachers, otherwise any one contributing the most trifling sum might be in a position to take such a line as would prevent the authority really being in a position to use their own discretion, and under these circumstances I must ask your Lordships to decline to accept the Amendment.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD pointed out that unless the Amendment were accepted, the localrauthority would have nothing whatever to say to the dismissal of the teachers.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Why should they?

*THE LORD BISHHOP OF HEREFORD contended that the local authority ought to have something to say in the matter, because it was in a school aided or supported by themselves. Under the Bill, as it stood, a sub-committee, or body of managers, or some local clique might dismiss a master and spoil the whole of his professional prospects, and yet there would be no person to whom that master could appeal against their decision. All he asked was that an appeal should be allowed to the local authority and the Board of Education.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY asked whether it was not becoming the almost universal custom in important secondary schools for the Governors to appoint the head master and to look to him for the success of the school, putting entirely into his hands the question of the assistants. This Amendment would go exactly contrary to that almost universal practice.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD could not quite agree with the statement of hisright reverend brother, but if it was the almost universal custom he felt, from his long experience, that it was a bad one for the profession. If they wished to encourage the profession, and to induce a high type of men to enter it, it was necessary that they should take care that individuals were not subjected to such arbitrary action without any right of appeal whatsoever.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD moved an Amendment providing that in every aided school or college at which boarders were received the local education authority should require suitable boarding arrangements to be made for the reception of boarders whose parents belonged to different religious denominations. He said the object of this Amendment was to enable members of different denominations to go to boarding schools and to enjoy such exemptions as were enjoyed by day scholars. His proposal touched somewhat closely on the subject discussed earlier in the debate, but he believed it met the difficulty in a better way. In country districts there would be a certain number of boarding schools, suited to the needs of those districts, but if all these schools were of a denominational character it became a great hardship to persons of a different denomination living in those districts that they should not be able to send their sons to those schools. That difficulty would be entirely met if the local authority required the children of Nonconformists to be admitted to the local Church boarding school under some such Clause as he now proposed. Moreover, it would entirely solve the difficulty with regard to training colleges, because hostels could be established to meet the requirements of Nonconformists. With regard to secondary schools, it had to be borne in mind that there might be no other suitable school within reach, and yet these parents would have to send their children to some boarding school, so that, unless some such Amendment were inserted, this hardship would press very heavily upon many parents. There ought certainly to be some guarantee that the children of parents of a denomination other than that to which the local school belonged—but a school, be it remembered, aided by the local authority—should be admitted to that school without doing violence to their consciences. It was only reasonable that the training colleges, which were so largely supported by public money, should be willing to establish hostels and to make such boarding arrangements as would be suitable for the needs of such students.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: What do you mean by "boarding arrangements?"

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said the "boarding arrangements" in a training college would mean the hostel arrangements.

Amendment moved—

"'In Clause 4, page 2, line 38, to insert 'in every aided school or college at which boarders are received the local education authority shall require that suitable boarding arrangements are made for the reception of boarders whose parents belong to different religious denominations.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER asked the right rev. Prelate to explain his argument by a concrete case. For instance, should a Roman Catholic college be compelled at its own cost to provide a hostel or other accommodation outside for Wesleyan or Church of England students?

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said the Committee were suffering from the inconvenience of mixing up training colleges with every class of secondary school in the country. There were few training colleges, but hundreds of secondary schools distributed throughout the country. The Bishop of Winchester objected to a provision of this kind being required in the case of certain training colleges; but why, even in the extreme cases to which he referred, should not students be allowed to live in their own hostels, to attend the secular instruction, and to have arrangements made for their own religious instruction? Where was the objection to it? In the right rev. Prelate's own school at Harrow and at Clifton College, over which he himself presided for fifteen or seventeen years, there were instances of exactly that character. He himself established a house for Jews, and that house was now occupied by twenty-four boys, who were in just the position in which students would be under this Amendment. For a quarter of a century such boys had been members of that school; no difficulty had ever arisen, and, as a practical schoolmaster, he ventured to say that no difficulty would arise. He felt convinced, however, that there would be a considerable sense of injustice in many cases if no such provision was made.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH asked whether, if a Wesleyan or other secondary school was receiving a small amount under the Technical Instruction Acts, that school was an aided school, and did the right rev. Prelate suggest that a Wesleyan school, under such circumstances, should be compelled to build a hostel for Church boys who might wish to attend the school? Reference had been made to the provision of a hostel for twenty-four boys at Clifton College; but many of these secondary schools would not have more than twenty-four boarders altogether, and was it intended that they should build a hostel for one boy?

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said that his Amendment asked for suitable boarding arrangements to be made. At Rugby he had a single Roman Catholic pupil, for whom he made suitable boarding arrangements. Those "suitable boarding arrangements" consisted in allowing the boy to live in a Roman Catholic or other family agreeable to his parents, and that was what he meant by making "suitable boarding arrangements," so as to put a boy in the same position as a day scholar.

LORD BURGHCLERE had considerable sympathy with the principles underlying the Amendment, but he thought the House had debated the real principle on a previous Amendment. There might also be some difficulties in the matter on the score of additional expense. Therefore, while he warmly supported the Amendment of Lord Beauchamp, he ventured to ask the right rev. Prelate to withdraw his proposal.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I should not have risen except out of respect for the right rev. Prelate to offer a few words in reply. From all I have heard I think his proposal is absolutely impracticable and impossible. He has told us that at Clifton there were a certain number of Jews, for whom he provided, and the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of St. Asaph asked what he would have done under similar circumstances with another denomination. May I ask him whether, if he were head of a training college, and three Mohammedans arrived, he would build a mosque for them, or how would he propose to deal with them? As I say, I think his proposal is so utterly impossible that I need scarcely ask your Lordships to support the Government.

* THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said he had pleasure in answering the noble Marquess's question. When he was Headmaster of Rugby, two Mohammedan princes arrived. He admitted them to the school, they lived in their own house, had their own religious instructor, and they were excellent members for two or three years; and no shadow of trouble or difficulty ever arose in connection with them.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD moved to insert a new Clause calling upon the local authority to make suitable arrangements for continuation schools or classes in connection with elementary schools or otherwise, and giving them power to require that all children under seventeen years of age, if no longer attending school or under equivalent instruction, should attend not less than sixty meetings of a duly recognised continuation class during each year till they reached that age, the responsibility for such attendance to rest on both parents and employers. He felt that if an end was to be put to the enormous waste in our educational system the country would have to cease to be content with the present truncated scheme of elementary schools, under which scholars were allowed to go where they pleased at the age of twelve or thirteen. If all children up to a certain age were kept under some amount of discipline, and received a certain amount of elevating instruction after leaving the elementary schools, it would be an enormous boon to both clergy and laity in the moral and spiritual interests of the community. That was the object of the Amendment. He could find no adequate provision in the Bill for continuation schools. He did not see that in the county of Hereford any continuation schools or classes must be provided by the local authority as a consequence of the passing of the Bill. The first part of the Amendment dealt with that point, but he desired also to go a step further, and to give the local authority the power to compel children up to the age of sixteen or seventeen to attend suitable classes when provided. He had some hesitation in pressing the latter part of the proposal, but he hoped that, either in whole or in part, the Amendment would commend itself to the House.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert the following new Clause. 'The local education authority shall make suitable arrangements for continuation schools or classes in connection with elementary schools or otherwise; and shall have power to require that all children under seventeen years of age, if no longer attending school or under equivalent instruction, shall attend not less than sixty meetings of a duly recognised continuation class during each year till they reach that age, the responsibility for such attendance to rest on both parents and employers.' "—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD said that all who had had the opportunity of practically observing the course of education in rural districts would feel that the Amendment was one deserving of the full consideration of the House. At the age of twelve, having passed a certain standard of examination, children left school, and, there being a great demand for all kinds of agricultural labour, they went at once into the fields, where they worked for ten hours a day. On returning home in the evening, they had no instruction to attend, no books to read, and no means of continuing or increasing the small store of knowledge they had attained. The result was that the large sums of money annually spent on education in the elementary schools in rural districts was to a great extent thrown away. Many children who left school at twelve years of age had forgotten all they ever learnt by the time they reached the age of fifteen, even to the extent of not being able to write their own names. Unless that state of things was to continue something would have to be done. Private effort was doing a great deal. Through the munificence of private individuals continuation schools had been started in various districts, so that the small store of knowledge possessed by these children might be made of some utility. The Amendment, was, therefore, one to be sympathised with. But one had to consider what was practicable. The question was a very great one, and he hoped before long it would be the subject of a separate Bill. A proposal to give the compulsory powers suggested in the Amendment required serious consideration, because they might be compelling a boy to attend who was unable to do so, and putting the boy or his parents under a penalty in consequence. From an abstract point of view it would be a good thing if children could be compelled up to the age of seventeen to attend continuation schools or classes to the extent of sixty evenings a year, but it was a really grave question which required to be dealt with from a practical point of view after the most careful consideration.

THE EARL OF CREWE could quite conceive that at the present stage of the Bill it would be impossible for the Government to insert provisions giving such large powers as those suggested in the second part of the Amendment, but he appealed to the noble Duke as to whether it would not be possible as an encouraging direction to the local authorities to accept the proposal of the Bishop of Hereford as far as the words "or otherwise." Although not meeting the views of the right rev. Prelate to the full extent, it would, at any rate, show the sympathy of the Government with this important matter. There was no educational question of greater importance than that of the continuation schools, and if the Government accepted the first part of the Amendment their action would be received with satisfaction both in Parliament and in the country.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I do not think your Lordships can for a moment doubt that the Board of Education realises the great importance of doing its utmost in regard to this question of continuation schools. I have no hesitation in saying that if an Amendment of a practical character had been placed on the Paper the noble Duke would have authorised me to accept it. But I think the remarks of the noble Earl opposite, and of my noble friend behind me, are sufficient justification of the decision of the Government to decline to accept the Amendment. They consider the proposition to be absolutely impracticable at present. I do not think we should be justified in compelling a local authority, while it is, so to speak, feeling its feet in regard to the administration of the details of this Bill, to take upon itself this great additional responsibility. The Amendment would force every local authority, whether local circumstances required it or not, to provide continuation schools within its area, and it would also compel children up to a certain age to take advantage of those schools. It would not matter whether the children were rich or poor, well-educated or ill educated——

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: I am afraid my Amendment has been misunderstood. It is limited by the words, "if no longer attending school or under equivalent instruction."

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: But it does not in the least matter whether the children are educated or uneducated; by this Amendment, unless attending other schools, they would be forced to attend the continuation schools. Such a measure of compulsion is absolutely impossible. I have heard it said that such a system exists in Germany.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: It has existed for at least eighteen years, and I believe it is described in one of the Yellow-books issued by the noble Marquess's own Department, giving an account of education in Saxony.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Of course, if the right rev. Prelate makes the statement I accept it, but if anybody else had made it I should have denied it. Under the circumstances, I think your Lordships will see that the Amendment is absolutely impossible.

LORD RIBBLESDALE could not agree that the Amendment was "absolutely impossible." The noble Marquess had rested the whole of his case on the word "shall"; apparently he did not like the compulsory character of the proposal. But he also stated that if anyone had adumbrated a reasonable Amendment he would have asked the noble Duke to accept it.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: To consider it.

LORD RIBBLESDALE asked whether the Government would give the House some idea as to what they would consider a "reasonable Amendment." The utterances of the noble Marquess in the course of the debate had tended to whittle away his own responsibility as President of the Board of Education, and also the little virility remaining to that Department under the Bill. Judging by the attitude of the Government, those who opposed the Bill had not yet been able to devise any reasonable Amendments, but there was a Report stage coming on, and, if they could only get at the mind of the noble Marquess, they might be able, after consultation outside, to make proposals by which something could be done. He was really surprised that the proposal of the Bishop of Hereford had not met with more sympathy on the part of the Government.

*LORD REAY suggested that, before the Report stage, the President of the Board of Education should consult the Secretary for Scotland as to the conditions under which attendance at continuation schools might be made compulsory in Scotland, and as to the conditions under which labour certificates were granted. He would then be able to introduce a Clause which would have some effect in the direction aimed at by the Amendment. The question was of the greatest importance. Unless arrangements were made so that the labour certificate should not be the end of all things, but that some continuity of education should be secured, the capital invested in the day elementary schools would give an insufficient return. He hoped the noble Marquess would look into the matter, especially as Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in the Second Reading debate, had expressed the opinion that the Bill would secure to England all the benefits already secured to Scotland by the excellent continuation Code.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I sympathise entirely with the des re of the noble Lord that continuation schools should exercise the same benefit in this country as in Scotland, but the Amendment, as proposed, insists on the local authority making arrangements which I believe are absolutely impracticable. I believe that, if time is given to the local authorities to feel their feet in the administration of the duties devolved upon them by this Bill, they will see the great advantage of maintaining continuation schools, but I do not think it would be advisable to hamper them in the way suggested. I wish to give them an absolutely free hand in the discharge of their duties. I believe they will be as anxious as we are to promote the cause of education, but that they will advance, as they ought, cautiously. To impose upon them at the present moment a duty such as that suggested in the Amendment would not only be absolutely unfair to them, but it would hamper them with a charge for which they are not at present prepared. I have no doubt that eventually they will realise the importance of doing their utmost to support continuation schools, and in so doing they will receive my heartiest co-operation and assistance.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN agreed that it would be impossible at present to force upon the local authorities a system of continuation schools. As the noble Marquess had stated, these authorities had to feel their feet; a great burden had been placed on their shoulders, and it would not be wise to rely upon them to carry out such a proposal as that suggested by the right rev. Prelate. On the other hand he could not agree with the noble Marquess that it was so likely that the local authorities would be able to develop a scheme of continuation schools; it was rather the Board of Education that should develop such a scheme, and he failed to see in his noble friend's remarks any indication that there existed in that Department the germ of a system which they would like the local authorities to carry out. He might be wrong in that view.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: You are.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said that possibly the Board had some plan before them by which, without the compulsory system suggested by the Amendment, they would be able to introduce continuation schools. Personally, he thought it very difficult, but it was distinctly the duty of the Board of Education to consider this matter. That Department, instead of waiting for the action of the new local authorities, only now being initiated into educational duties, ought to give them a lead by framing at an early date such a system as would enable the education given in the elementary schools to be carried on. All who were acquainted with agricultural districts would agree that there was no subject to which the Government could apply their minds with more advantage. They might work out a national system. The matter was one which went to the root of our prosperity, and he associated himself with the views of the noble Lords who maintained that if we were to hold our own in this country it was essential that education should not stop at the age of fourteen or fifteen years, but should be developed, organised, and systematised beyond the limits at present existing.

EARL SPENCER: After the appeal of the noble Viscount, I do not know that it is necessary for me to say anything on this subject. I entirely endorse all that he has said as to the great importance of endeavouring to get some fixed, good, and sound system of continuation schools, and I would appeal to the noble Duke—not because the Minister for Education was unfriendly to this proposal; in fact, he held out a hope that if a practical suggestion were made, the Government would favourably consider it—but I would appeal to the noble Duke to see whether he cannot, in the Bill itself, introduce some indication that it will be the duty of the Board of Education to deal with this matter, and, if they have not already got it, give them the authority to do so. There are plenty of opportunities, before the Bill leaves this House, of introducing a Clause dealing with the subject.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Some noble Lords seem not to be aware, or to ignore the fact, that local authorities, especially county authorities, are already doing a great deal in the direction of assisting and maintaining continuation schools. They do not all do it in the same way, and probably it would not be desirable that they should. This is a matter which a large number of County Councils have taken up very warmly since funds were placed at their disposal by the money which my noble friend Viscount Goschen thinks ought to be known by his name rather than under its ordinary cognomen of the whisky money. They had received a certain amount of guidance from the Board of Education in the Code, but if it is a matter upon which it is possible for the Board to give them greater guidance, more assistance, and a clearer indication as to what they ought to do than is at present given, I think the question could be dealt with far better on the Code than by the introduction of a hard and fast provision into this Bill.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said that after the interesting discussion and the general expressions of sympathy with the general principle of the Amendment to which they had listened, though he could have wished the sympathy had been of a less platonic character, he was prepared to withdraw his proposal, in the hope that something would accrue from the consideration of the subject.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 5:—

EARL BEAUCHAMP, in moving an Amendment providing that the local education authorities should have the "control and management" instead of merely the "control" of all secular instruction in non-provided schools, said the principle on which he placed the Amendment on the Paper was that the popular control over the elementary education of the country, which was said to be one of the objects of the Bill, should be properly secured. The word "control" was somewhat vague, and he would be glad to know the exact character of the control to be exercised by the local authority. It was to make that control constant and efficient that he moved this Amendment, the effect of which would be to put the local Church of England managers merely in the position of delegates administering the Act under the local authority, the local authority being paramount. He thought the system a bad one, but it was at any rate desirable that the arrangement should be clear, so that they might know exactly which authority had the paramount control over the school. Under the Bill as it stood there would be two statutory authorities, one having the control and the other the management. It was obvious that considerable friction and jealousy might arise between the two, as the inferior body was not elected or nominated by the superior body. The idea of the Bill was that the Church of England should dominate, not only the religious instruction of Church of England children, but also the secular instruction given in voluntary schools. The Amendment would secure some management on the part of the local authority, and therefore he begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 3, after 'control' insert 'management.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: As the noble Earl has said, this Amendment introduces a very important principle; it, in fact, practically deals with the whole Bill. If the Amendment were carried its effect would be completely to alter the character of the measure. It must be taken in conjunction with another Amendment standing lower on the Paper in the name of the noble Earl. The present Amendment invests the local authority with not only the control, but the management of schools, and his subsequent Amendment says—

> "The managers of public elementary schools shall exercise such of the powers of the local education authority in relation to the control and management of the schools, with or without any restrictions, as the local authority may from time to time determine."

The scheme of the Bill is that the voluntary schools are hereafter to be managed by managers, four of whom shall be appointed under the trust and two by the local authority, and that these shall exercise the duties of the managers of the schools, the most important of which is the appointment of the teacher. The Bill also provides that the managers shall conform to the directions and instructions of the local authority as regards secular education. The Amendments of the noble Earl completely reverse this procedure; they provide that the schools shall be managed, not by the body of managers, but that every power in connection with the school, including that of the appointment of the teacher, shall be exercised by the local authority. That was one of the subjects we were chiefly engaged in discussing during the two nights devoted to the Second Reading of the Bill. The Amendment entirely alters the framework and structure of the Bill, and at this stage of the proceedings I think it hardly necessary seriously to discuss it.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD moved to provide that the foundation managers of the non-provided schools should be two, instead of four, as provided by the Bill. He said that this matter had been much discussed, not only in another place, but also on the platform and in the country generally. He believed, however, that if this Amendment, and a consequential Amendment enacting that two managers should be appointed by the major and two by the minor authority, were agreed to, they would practically get rid of the Nonconformist opposition to the Bill. They would secure popular control, and it would be perfectly easy to safeguard every legitimate interest of the denomination.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 19, to leave out 'four' and insert 'two.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE EARL OF CREWE said he had no desire to enter into the general controversy on this subject; the matter had been discussed at great length in another place and in the country, and had also monopolised a considerable portion of the Second Reading debate. He merely wished to comment on the explanation given on this subject of the management of voluntary schools by the

Duke of Devonshire in concluding the debate on the Second Reading. On that occasion the noble Duke explained the proportion of the managers allotted by the Bill to the different contributing parties. He pointed out that the Church would now contribute a small portion of the expenses, and one which entitled them to one manager, it being obviously impossible to divide a manager into fractions. The ratepayers were provided with two managers, and the remaining three, according to the noble Duke, belonged to the State and were appointed by them, the argument being that those three could not be appointed directly by the State, but were appointed by the Board of Education as a part of His Majesty's Government, representing the majority in Parliament. That was a somewhat singular admission, for if those managers represented the present majority in Parliament, what was to be their fate in the event of that majority being some day turned into a minority? It seemed that it would be absolutely the duty of the then majority to appoint three out of the managers in some other way. In making this admission the noble Duke seemed to him to have once for all destroyed the contention that the Bill was in any sense a final measure.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not quite recognise my argument as represented by the noble Earl opposite. As far as I recollect it, it was that if anybody had a right to appoint a majority of the managers it was the State, acting through the Education Department or the Treasury.

THE EARL OF CREWE: Through "the majority in Parliament," I think, were the words used by the noble Duke.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: If that is so, I really do not know how the words, "majority in Parliament" got in. I think my argument was—and it is a fair argument—that, on the whole, the equities, if we take into account the relative contributions, are not very unequally distributed. To begin with the founders; the trustees to whom the school belongs, and in whom the school is vested, have a right to some representation in respect of the great contributions they have made in times past, and the more limited contributions they will be called upon to make in the future. The ratepayers, who are in future to contribute a portion of the expense of maintenance will be represented, not only by the managers whom they will be abl to appoint, but by the direct control over secular education which will be exercised under the Bill by the local authority. The State which contributes the greater proportion cannot be represented on the local management, but is represented by the control which it exercises over the school through the Code and through its inspectors. I do not think it is possible to distribute these responsibilities by any arithmetical arrangement as to the managers, but I believe that, on the whole, as between the three parties who have contributed to the foundation, and will contribute to the maintenance of these schools, the matter is not inequitably divided. The right rev. Prelate who moved the Amendment is, I think, perfectly aware that it is one the framers of the Bill cannot possibly accept. The effect of it would be that instead of the voluntary managers being in a majority of two-thirds, as we intend them to be, they would be in a minority of one-third. We have proposed the best compromise we could suggest under which the continuance of the voluntary schools is possible. We have asked Parliament to make a very large and liberal pecuniary grant to the managers of these schools, and we have asked the managers, on the other hand, to surrender a large proportion of the privileges they have hitherto enjoyed. We have put this scheme before Parliament, not as an absolutely perfect or ideal arrangement, but as the best compromise we could suggest. To alter the terms of that compromise in such a way as to convert what we think ought to be a majority on the management into a minority, would fundamentally subvert the compromise, and, in our opinion, would have the effect of closing, if not every one, at any rate the great majority of the voluntary schools which have been founded for the purpose of giving distinctive religious education, and for the observance of which purpose in the future there would be no security whatever if this Amendment were carried. The principal—I do not say the sole—but the principal duty of the managers in future will be the appointment of the teachers and the control of religious education. If you place that control in the hands of a majority, which need not be of a denominational character, I do not see where you can obtain any security that the religious character of the schools should be in any degree preserved.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I do not know any speech to which I have listened which has so well illustrated the allusion of the Bishop of Hereford, in which he likened the noble Duke to Laocoon, as the speech we have just heard, because when the noble Duke said, with emphasis, that this was the best compromise he could offer on this subject I seemed to see the insidious snakes twining round his limbs, and preventing him from offering anything more. Of course to call this a compromise is a play upon words, a sarcasm, indeed, a stroke of humour, but it is in no sense any description of the scheme of management offered to this House by the Government. If the noble Duke had considered the matter a little more, he would have seen that the word "compromise" was hardly applicable. The noble Duke said that the four managers who represented the foundation were to represent the considerable in the past, though no doubt less in the future, contributions they have made to the schools; but he knows perfectly well that the contributions of the managers, past, present or future, bear no relation whatever to the contributions of the State or the public, and, therefore, when he speaks of a compromise it is an abuse of language to an extent which I think is hardly justifiable, even in a Committee of this kind—I mean a Committee in which the efforts of the minority must necessarily be sterile. But the point I wish to call attention to is not the long thrashed out principle of management, because if I spoke with the tongues of men and of angels I should not have power to alter the proposed arrangement, but the extraordinary argument of the noble Duke, which is, I think, by far the most original which has been addressed to either House of Parliament on this Bill, advanced in the short speech with which he closed the Second Reading debate, and to which therefore, no reply was possible at the time. I will not go into the fractions and subdivisions of fractions into which the noble Duke divided the managers on these new Boards. The noble Duke defended the arrangement in the Bill by saying that the proportions were in the main just; there were to be four managers representing the indefinite contributions of subscribers past and present, then there were to be two more managers, one, he allowed, represented the ratepayers—I am not sure that in his original speech the noble Duke did not say that both of these represented the ratepayers, and that, I am disposed to think, was his real meaning.

The Duke of Devonshire.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Two are appointed by the local authority.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: The ratepayers.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The local authority.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Well, I will take the local authority—that is, the ratepayers. The noble Duke said that the ratepayers had no right to more representation. But, sweeping away the insignificant contribution of the subscribers which is to entitle them to two-thirds of the Board of Management, the main contribution to the expenses of the schools is one-third by the ratepayers and two-thirds by the State. It is to the last contribution that I wish to call attention. Sir Robert Peel once asked, "What is a pound?" I wish to ask, "What is the State, which is to contribute two-thirds to this Board of Management on which it is not to be represented?" It is the great body of taxpayers of the country. The noble Duke speaks as if the State had a private income of its own from which it made its contributions to these schools, and which, therefore, entitled it to a general control or representation quite apart from its representation of the taxpayers of the country. I am not going to deliver a constitutional treatise on the King and the estates of the country, but the State in this connection is merely the great body of contributors to the Imperial taxation.

Owing to the care of the present Government, the taxpayers of the country are absolutely the same as any consumer of bread; there is no person in the country who consumes bread, tea, or tobacco who is not a taxpayer. How is it then that this body is only to be represented by the occasional visit of an inspector? I confess I did not catch that part of the argument referred to by our noble friend as to three managers representing the State. I took the noble Duke to say that the State was to be represented by the occasional visit of an inspector.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: And the Code.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: And he said that the State, as at present constituted—because he apparently identified the State with the present Government —wished denominational education to prevail in these schools. Well, if the State is identical with the present Government, there has never been anything so autocratic said since Louis XIV. declared, "*L'Etat, c'est moi.*" I have never heard of such a definition of the State for generations past. Surely I am not presumptuous in thinking the noble Duke had some constitutional confusion in his mind. What we claim is that the public, ratepayers and taxpayers, have a right to the control where the State contributes the funds, whether they are contributed as taxes or rates. I defy anybody, however noble and however learned he may be, to prove that there is an abstract entity called the State which has some fund at its disposal, not contributed by the public which entitles the State to some sort of privileged position and to arrange the Boards of these schools without any reference whatever to the contributing elements. What is the State in the mind of the noble Duke? I hope he will give us some explanation before this discussion closes. Sure I am of this, that in its financial aspect the State is the body of taxpayers, and surely the House of Commons, at any rate in its control of taxation, represents the body of taxpayers. I know of no other State in this connection. When I am told that the ratepayers have, almost as a matter of privilege, granted them by the Government the timid and questionable right to appoint one-third of these boards of management, and, on the other hand, that the State, which was entitled to contribute two-thirds to these Boards, generously stands aside and only sends an inspector now and then, I really wonder whether the Constitution remains where it was and under what *régime* we are living. I hope that this debate will not pass away without some clear pronouncement by the Government as to the views they hold on the constitutional aspect of this question.

LORD HERRIES, speaking as a Roman Catholic, declared that the line taken by the Opposition upon this Bill would not be merely adverse, but absolutely destructive to Roman Catholic schools. Those schools had been kept up ever since 1870, chiefly at the expense of Roman Catholics, who at the same time had paid rates in support of schools suitable to Nonconformists, and if they were now to be asked to allow a body, two-thirds of which might consist of Nonconformists, Unitarians, or Agnostics, to take charge of the religious instruction in those schools, he could assure their Lordships that not a single school would be handed over. Roman Catholics were ratepayers and members of the State; they expected to be treated by their fellow-countrymen in the manner in which the latter would be treated by Roman Catholics. The threat recently made that as soon as another Party came into power they would take every step possible to alter this legislation and to give a majority of the ratepayers power over these schools, would make Roman Catholics use every endeavour to prevent that Party coming into power, and so to guard the religion of the next generation against the attacks proposed to be made upon it. If there was one idea to which Roman Catholics clung more earnestly than another, it was that the religion of their Church should be taught to the children in their schools. In former years their ancestors had had to send their children to foreign countries to get an education in agreement with their religious principles. In Ireland they had the "hedge schoolmaster," who taught the children their catechism, and kept alive the faith of the Irish. Was it to be supposed, then, that in this century they were to go back on the idea of having their children educated in accordance with their religion? Not a single Roman Catholic school would come on the public charge if this Amendment were insisted upon. Roman Catholics were determined that the religious instruction in their schools should be in agreement with the religion they professed, and he protested most determinedly against the attitude of the Opposition, who declared that, because a certain amount of support was to be given out of the rates, Roman Catholics—who also paid their share of the rates—were not to have charge of the religious instruction in their schools.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am not going to enter into a constitutional discussion with the noble Earl, but I am afraid I must attempt to restate the argument I placed before the House on Friday last, and of which the noble Earl has apparently failed to grasp the meaning. My contention was that inasmuch as the larger proportion of the cost of the maintenance of schools would be paid, not by the school, but by the taxpayers, it was the taxpayer and not the ratepayer who had the right to the majority of the representation on the board of management, if anybody. But, inasmuch as it was impossible that the taxpayer should be directly represented on the management of these schools——

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Why?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Who is to appoint the representative in the name of the taxpayers?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: The taxpayers of the country, I suppose; the taxpayers of the locality.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: What taxpayers? The income-tax payers?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I did not say the income-tax payers only. I said the taxpayers.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Does the noble Earl mean the income-tax payers?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: No.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Then whom does he mean?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I mean the taxpayers. Is the noble Duke so little conversant with the finance of this country as to suppose that the revenue is derived from income tax only?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am under the impression that a considerable portion of it is. But what I maintain is that there is no constituency to elect a representative of the taxpayers on the managing bodies of the schools. The only local representation that can be given is that of the ratepayers, and my argument is that the ratepayers have no right to represent the taxpayers. In the course of my argument I may have used the word "State" in a sense which has led to the criticisms of the noble Earl, but I presume he will not deny that the taxpayers—he has admitted that the taxpayers are entitled to the largest share in the control over the education to which they contribute—

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: From the financial point of view.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I presume he will not deny that the taxpayers are represented by Parliament; and I maintain that Parliament has a right, not only legally, but morally, to express its opinion as to the form of local government which should be on the schools which it so materially assists to maintain. The other House of Parliament has, and I believe this House ultimately will express its approval of the suggested form of government. I maintain that Parliament has a perfect right to do that, not only as the supreme authority in the country, but as representing the largest body of contributors. I do not deny that it would be competent for another Parliament, representing another set of opinions among the taxpayers, to upset the present arrangement; and the speech delivered by the noble Earl yesterday seemed to indicate an intention on his part to spare no effort to induce Parliament to do so. But Parliament, as representing the largest contribution to the schools from any source, has a perfect moral right to express its opinion as to the compromise which it has thought right to impose upon those who have hitherto had the sole management of these schools.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I am sorry to trouble the House again, but the noble Duke has considerably shifted his ground. His original ground was that the State was an abstract entity, which ought to nominate the largest number of the managers.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I never admitted that the managers were the only essential element in the control of the schools. They have only a limited control. The State cannot be represented by any number of managers on the schools. It is represented by the influence which it exercises over national education through the Code annually submitted to Parliament, and by the inspectors who report to the Board of Education. It has nothing whatever to do with the constitution of the Board of Management with very limited functions.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I am more perplexed than ever to know what the State is. It now seems to be the permanent Civil Government of the country. Neither of the propositions which the noble Duke controverted has been advanced by me. What I maintain is that when the taxpayers have, on the financial basis, according to the noble Duke's own contention, the right to the preponderating position on the Board of Management, it is not fair that they should be supplanted by foundation managers, who are, after all, a close and often an ecclesiastical corporation. The noble Duke talked of the moral right of Parliament to make any arrangement it chose. I think he unduly limited himself there. Might is right. Parliament, according to the old definition, can do anything it likes, except turn a man into a woman; and the noble Duke was therefore pleading a platitude to which no one has ever offered exception. But the noble Duke must have sufficient reminiscences of the past to be aware that it is not according to Liberal doctrine, or even constitutional doctrine, to admit that, where the greater part of the revenue is contributed by the public, two-thirds of the control should be given to a close corporation.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Not to the managers.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: What is given to the managers?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Only certain details are given to them.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: One of the details being the choice of the teachers, to which the majority behind the Government cling with such persistence as to show that it is not an unimportant detail.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Subject to the control of the County Council.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I am obliged for the interruption, but it does not materially alter the point. The managers will be on the spot, and the local authorities will be a long way off. I do not agree that it is impossible for the taxpayers to be represented on the Board. Financially, the taxpayers have a right to a preponderating influence on the board of management, but there is another element which has as great a right to representation, and that is the parents. We on this side of the House are always asking what means the Government have taken to elicit the views of the parents as to the control of the parents over these Boards. Is it wonderful, when we do not differ, I think, in the main with those who wish for real religious instruction to be given in these schools, when we are as solicitous about that in reality as noble Lords opposite, that we also should wish to have some effect given to the wishes of the parents, and that we should deplore the fact that the Government has given no such representation on these Boards? Is it wonderful, then, that noble Lords on this side of the House should say that if the power ever comes to them—which is, perhaps, not very likely—they will endeavour to reverse the Bill in some of these respects. My noble friend, Lord Herries, has said, with great passion, that he and those who agree with him will endeavour to prevent such a consummation coming about as the return of noble Lords on this side of the House to the Ministerial side.

LORD HERRIES: Unless you change your opinions on this question.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: You need not address that to me. So far as I know, my noble friend and those who agree with him need no such stimulus as that for any action they might think fit to take part in with that object in view. One word more. The noble Duke, I think, alluded to some remarks that were attributed to me yesterday, and rightly attributed; and his allusion to them was received with loud cheers on the Episcopal Bench. I stand by every word I said yesterday, but not to every word that has been read into them from prejudiced sources. It is hard enough in these days for men to make speeches every day and all day, but it will be much harder if it is the practice of faction to read into those speeches expressions which their authors did not use, and opinions which they absolutely repudiate. This I will say—I will repeat in this House what I said to the Nonconformists. I believe that of late the Nonconformists of this country have been strangely passive in regard to politics; they have been indifferent to their own Liberal alliances, and they have even, positively or negatively, supported the cause of Toryism. What I said, and what I implied, and all that I said or implied to the Nonconformists was that, if they desired to have justice done to them in the matter of education —which they certainly have not had done to them by this Bill—they must shake off this insidious sloth and resume the active political agitation which was in their old days the strength of the Liberal party.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said he trusted the importance they all attributed to the words that fell from the noble Lord would excuse him for saying a few words in reply. The noble Lord had said that much had been read into his speech to the Free Churches which he never said.

LORD ROSEBERY: Hear, hear!

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said he thought the noble Lord alluded to the non-payment of rates. He did not think the noble Lord told the deputation, having been Prime Minister of this country, that nothing would more prejudice their cause, that nothing would more shake his own confidence in their statesmanship, than if they were to adopt such a

course. If the noble Lord alluded to the non-payment of rates at all, he should have thought he would have deprecated any such action.

LORD ROSEBERY: I did deprecate it, in absolute and precise terms.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said he did not wish to impute any words to the noble Lord which he did not use. The noble Lord said he deprecated such action, but he also said, "But I am not a Nonconformist."

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: This is rather important. I said, I myself am averse to the non-payment of rates, but I am not a Nonconformist, and I am therefore not in a position to judge of the sense of intolerable wrong which has driven many just, and God-fearing, and law-abiding citizens to intimate such a course as that.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said he did not misrepresent the spirit of the noble Lord's speech. He was averse to the non-payment of rates, "but he was not a Nonconformist." If the noble Lord was not a Nonconformist, he was a tax-payer. What was likely to be the attitude of the Nonconformists after the speech which the noble Lord had made tonight in reference to their contribution to the taxes? He had never been able to understand why those who had a conscientious objection to paying a rate to a school had a conscientious objection to paying a tax to a school. Or, if they had conscientious objections to both, why they should propose to take different action as regarded a rate from that which they took in regard to a tax. He should like to know from the noble Lord whether the next step in the agitation with which they were threatened would not be that the Nonconformists would refuse to pay their taxes? He should like to put a question to the noble Lord. When he was in office, and guided the affairs of the State, were there not Nonconformists who paid taxes, and made, therefore, contributions towards the maintenance of denominational schools? Did he do anything in those years to remedy what he now called "the intolerable wrong" being done to Dissenters? The noble Lord in a passionate peroration appealed to this intolerable wrong that was being done.

He said the foundation managers were taking the place of the taxpayers in the management, but the foundation managers had been all along enjoying the contributions from the State which the representation now demanded for the taxpayers. Why was it now demanded for the first time? Because a change was being made which gave an opportunity for the demand. The noble Earl said this was not a compromise. No; many people would call it a confiscation. Dr. Clifford was reported to have said that the Government were taking away the control from the local authority, but that was not the case. They were giving control to the people.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: In what form?

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: In the shape of two managers.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: As against four.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: Yes, and what are they giving to the local authority? They are giving the managers, bound hand and foot, to the elective body. I hope they will manage their affairs well——

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: If they are handed over bound hand and foot, would it not be well, for the mere appearance of the thing, to give those to whom they are bound hand and foot a majority on the Board?

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: Certainly not, because there are certain things that are retained. I, in my turn, would ask the noble Earl a question. Does he attribute no importance to the control of the local authority over the managers?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Of course I do.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: Is not that a fresh grant of authority?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: It is, but you are taking away the School Boards. But I think it would perhaps be convenient for the House if we dropped this "shorter catechism."

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN said he was glad to give the noble Lord an opportunity of amplifying his facts, but had he forgotten that the managers were losing a large amount of control? That could not be denied, and with that loss of control there could be no doubt that their powers were immensely reduced. The managers were not their own masters. A strict control was exercised by the Department, and now to this control another control was added. If there was a bargain, whilst some financial advantages had no doubt accrued to the denominations, the non-denominationalists had also gained a great deal. Yet they cried out that the whole of this great change had been against them, and the noble Lord encouraged them by his eloquence in complaint of a grievance which was no grievance, and when a new power had actually been placed in their hands.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: May I have a final word? But then the noble Viscount is not a Nonconformist!

LORD RIBBLESDALE objected to the proposed distribution of the management on the grounds so ably stated by the noble Earl. He agreed with Viscount Goschen that nobody would go to martyrdom for the difference between a rate and a tax, but it should be remembered that previous to this proposal the cup of the Nonconformists was already full. At the risk of lowering the tone of the debate, he desired to bring the House back to the practical consideration that the proposed distribution of management would not tend to the efficiency either of education or of control. Only the other day the Wiltshire County Council, a Unionist body, by a vote of thiry-two against seventeen, had passed a resolution to that effect. The managers, if they were to be efficient, had no interest in economy, and the County Council having only one representative on the management, had practically no control over efficiency, and still less over economy. The probable result of the distribution would, therefore, be inefficiency in education and waste of money.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said the Church was accused of having an undue share of representation on the Board. In that accusation it was assumed that the managers would have all the powers they had hitherto possessed. That, however, was far from being the case. Their powers were to be very circumscribed; the name was nearly all that was left to them. They were called managers, but what had they to manage? Two things only. They had simply to appoint the master who should give the religious instruction, and to take care that that instruction was given according to direction of the trust deed. All the powers they formerly possessed as to fixing the time, and the substance of the instruction, determining the salary of the teachers, and all the other matters that made management important, had been taken from them and placed in the hands of the local authority. He could quite understand that the arithmetical distribution would have been a matter of great importance if they were managers in the sense they had hitherto been, but as they were now retained in their position merely to superintend the mode of the religious instruction and nothing else, the question was simply whether it was unfair, seeing they gave up their school buildings at a peppercorn rent and nearly all the powers they formerly possessed, that the denomination should have such a majority of the nominal managers as would enable them effectually to carry out the one function remaining to them. He certainly could not see where the injustice came in.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD contended that the amount of work the managers had to do did not in any way affect the justice or injustice of the arrangement. There was one satisfaction in that line of argument, however, and that was that the word "atmosphere" had disappeared. As to the statement that the managers retained the power only of appointing the teacher to give the religious instruction, he pointed out that they retained the power of appointing all the teachers in the school. After listening to Lord Herries' speech, he was afraid it had not been rightly understood that in any plan which he had submitted he included the safeguard of religious education as an essential part of it. If popular control such as he desired to see were adopted, it would be perfectly easy to introduce — and he said it as one who had some practical experience in school matters — every legitimate safeguard in regard to religious instruction. The safeguards he had suggested from time to time were, in his humble opinion, at least as agreeable in their working, both to Anglicans and to Roman Catholics, as the Kenyon-Slaney Clause was likely to be. He feared there was little hope of carrying this Amendment, and he had no desire to take up the time of the House in dividing upon it. [OPPOSITION cries of "Divide."] He was in the hands of the Committee in the matter.

On the Question being put—

EARL NELSON (speaking seated and with his hat on) said,—On a point of Order, I beg to say that some Peers, before leaving the House, particularly asked the Bishop of Hereford whether he was going to divide. He said he was not, and on that consideration they left the House.

THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: I have already said that I am in the hands of the Committee.

Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 158; Not-Contents, 27.

CONTENTS.

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Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

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Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain*)
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Belmore, E.
Camperdown, E.
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Derby, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Egerton, E.
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Harewood, E.
Hillsborough, E. (*M. Downshire*).
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Chichester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Ely, L. Bp.
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Kinnaird, L.
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Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Tweedmouth, L.
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VISCOUNT HALIFAX, in moving a new sub-Section requiring trustees or managers to give the local authority six months' notice of their intention to close a school, said it was no use disguising the fact that under the conditions imposed by the Bill, and with every desire to make the best of the measure, it was probable—he believed certain—that many of those responsible for denominational schools would find themselves in great difficulties. A certain Clause, subsequently to be discussed, simply bristled with difficulties; but, even apart from that Clause, there were many schools, privately owned or otherwise, which those responsible for them would not think it worth while to continue under the new conditions. This had nothing whatever to do with the religious question; it was simply a matter affecting the practical working of the Bill in country districts. There were many schools entirely kept up, the buildings provided, and the salaries of the teachers paid by private owners or individuals, the only assistance derived from the State being the capitation grants earned by the pupils. The conditions under which some of these schools would be placed by the Bill were such that, with the appointment of managers, it would be almost impossible to carry them on. If such schools were given up, the local authority, would have to provide others to take their place, and in order that as little inconvenience as possible might be caused to the ratepayers and the local authority there should be a warning of the intention to surrender these, at present, denominational schools. The object of the Amendment was to secure such notice being given, and he would be prepared to substitute twelve for six months if that was thought desirable.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 30, after 'increased' to insert '(*c*) If the trustees or managers of schools not provided by the local authority declare their intention to cease to conduct the school as a public elementary school, they shall be bound to give the local education authority six months' notice of such intention.'"—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I quite recognise that inconvenience might arise in the event of managers feeling unable to continue their schools under the provisions of the Act, in the circumstances contemplated by the noble Viscount, but I do not understand by what right he proposes to compel the managers or trustees or owners of a school to keep the school open against their will for even a period of six months; neither do I see what penalty could be imposed for any infringement of such a Clause.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX asked whether the remark of the noble Duke applied to schools under private ownership without trust deeds, or to schools under trust to provide education. There were two classes of schools, one under the trust deed of the National Society and bound to provide education, and the other merely private property, which might be dealt with just as the owner thought fit. He desired it to be made clear that in the event of schools of either class being compelled to close, due notice should be given to the authority which might have to supply the deficiency, so that no inconvenience should be caused to the public.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: There are, no doubt, the two classes of schools mentioned by the noble Viscount, but I cannot understand by what right he would compel the owner of an elementary school to continue that school under conditions with which he felt he could not comply. The Clause would apply to such a school just as much as to a school under a trust deed. As to schools under trusts, I conceive that whether or not they could be closed, would depend on the nature of the particular trust. In either case, I am unable to see by what right the noble Viscount proposes to prevent the trustees or private owners from doing that which, under the trust or by virtue of their ownership, they are entitled to do, or what power there would be to enforce any such provision.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

EARL BEAUCHAMP, who had given notice of a new sub-Section providing that the managers of public elementary schools should exercise such powers of the local authority as that body might determine, said he did not intend to move the Amendment, but simply to ask whether the Government agreed to the definition of the duties of the managers given by the Bishop of Manchester, viz., that their sole duty would be to select the head teacher of religion.

LORD DAVEY asked what would be the position and functions of the managers of the old board schools. As originally introduced, the Bill provided that they were to be managers appointed under the powers of the Act of 1870, but that provision had since been struck out, and there was nothing in the body of the Bill which in any way defined what their functions and powers would be. What they could not do their Lordships knew; they could not appoint the master or the teachers, nor could they spend a single shilling of money; but it was very difficult to see what they could do.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: They will do what the local authority directs them.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said the noble Earl had not accurately quoted his statement. What he said was that the managers were directed to appoint the headmaster; they were then to take care that the religious instructiongiven in the school was in accordance with the terms of the trust deed, and that was also included in the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said the right rev. Prelate had limited the power of the managers to the religious instruction, carefully saying that they had nothing to do with the secular instruction. He desired to know whether the Government accepted that definition of the duties of the managers. His Amendment was based on the definition of managers in the Act of 1870.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER did not think he had said the managers could do nothing with regard to secular education, because the local authority, if it pleased, could delegate to them certain minor functions connected with that side of the instruction. But even then they would have only a delegated authority, and would be able to do only as they were directed by the local authority.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said that in order to get a reply from the Government he would formally move his Amendment. He had purposely taken the words from the Act of 1870 so that they should be non-controversial, and he hoped the Government would accept them.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 30, at the end of the Clause, insert new sub-Section: '(4.) The managers of public elementary schools shall exercise such of the powers of the local education authority in relation to the control and management of the schools, with or without any conditions or restrictions, as the local authority may from time to time determine.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The words which the noble Earl asks us to accept would give the managers only such powers as the local authority might from time to time determine. I conceive that under the Amendment the local authority would be able to deprive the managers of the power of appointing the teachers. Is that the noble Earl's intention?

EARL BEAUCHAMP said that that was safeguarded by another Clause of the Bill. It was about the thousand and one other things connected with the management of schools that he was anxious to get a statement as to who was to be the authority.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The duties of the managers are very simple. They are responsible for the religious education; they choose the teachers; and they will carry out the instructions of the local authority in regard to secular instruction.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: Then why not accept my Amendment?

LORD BURGHCLERE asked what was the meaning of sub-Section (3) of Clause 7, if the managers were simply to carry out the instructions of the local authority, and were, as had been stated earlier in the debate, bound hand and foot to that authority? The sub-Section to which he referred enacted that if any questions arose between the managers and the local education authority they were to be determined by the Board of Education. If the Clause meant anything, it meant there were other duties the managers would have to discharge, and that they were not bound hand and foot to the local authority. No question could possibly arise between two persons one of whom was the absolute slave of the other; therefore the managers must have some independent powers.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6:—

*THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON desired to ask a question with regard to schools in the possession of private individuals, and in connection with which there were no trust deeds. Many such schools had been leased or rented to managers. It would be difficult to say how those managers were elected, but they had been elected somehow, and when one passed away another was elected to take his place. They had, however, done their duties extremely well, and he desired to know what would happen in such cases. Many Church schools were having trust deeds prepared, but certain private owners might not desire to have such a trust, preferring to rent or sell the buildings to the local authority. He could find no provision in the Bill enabling that to be done. A further question was whether, in a case of such letting or selling, the control of the private owner would pass completely from him. If the private owner disappeared from the scene, in many cases the up-keep also would go, and a certain amount of expense would fall on poor localities.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I am not at all sorry the noble Marquess has asked this question, because there are many people in the position of owning private voluntary schools of which they have hitherto had more or less entire control. Undoubtedly the position is not thoroughly understood at present, and we are preparing a long memorandum on the subject, a copy of which I should be glad to supply to the noble Marquess, or to any other noble Lord interested in the matter. The position at present is that an owner may, if he likes, have a trust deed created, subject to any restrictions there may be as to rights in tail. That can be done whether this Bill passes or not. If he does not choose to do that, he may make arrangements to let the school at a peppercorn rent from year to year. In each of those cases he is the owner of the school, and has a perfect right to nominate the managers.

*THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON said that what he desired to know was whether the owner, if he received from the local authority a rent for the school, would have the same control as in the past, or whether he would lose all such control.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: If the noble Marquess means a case in which a private school is handed over to a local authority and is converted into a provided school, the school undoubtedly ceases to be a voluntary school, and becomes what is now called a board school. In all probability the owner then would be simply a ratepayer, and would not have the control of the school in the apartment of managers; the managers would be appointed by the local authority.

*THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON pointed out that the memorandum to which the noble Marquess had referred would not have the force of an Act of Parliament. Would it be attached as a schedule to the Bill?

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The memorandum will be issued to instruct individual owners as to what they can do if they wish, so that they may understand what is the real position with regard to trust deeds at the present time. The whole position is extremely hazy, and our great object at the Board of Education when this Bill is passed and before it is administered will be to remove as far as possible all misapprehension or want of understanding with regard to the matter. That is the reason we propose to issue this memorandum.

*THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON, in thanking the noble Marquess for his reply, said he understood from him that there was no provision in the Bill by which a private owner would be prevented from leasing buildings belonging to him to the local authority for the purposes of a public elementary school, and receiving all the advantages given under the Bill.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE said there was no mystery about the matter at all. A voluntary school was either subject to a trust deed or it was not. Both cases were covered by the Bill. If the private owner of a school chose to take advantage of the Clauses of the Bill by which the school could be maintained as a denominational school, it would become a maintained school. If, on the other hand, he preferred to hand it over entirely to the local authority, it would become a provided school, the equivalent of a board school. Both courses were open to owners.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I would suggest that noble Lords should read the Clauses of the Act of 1870 relating to transfers, and which are not repealed by this Bill.

Clause 6 agreed to.

House resumed; to be again in Committee Tomorrow.

ORDNANCE SURVEY IN IRELAND.

THE EARL OF BELMORE, in rising to ask "Whether anything can be done to hasten the progress of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland on the 25-inch scale," said he used to put the Question to Lord Cadogan ten or fifteen years ago, but recently, when he had occasion to apply to the head of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland for a particular map, he was told it would not be ready for seven or eight years more, or about twenty years from the time he first took an interest in the matter, when the survey had already been begun. Next year it was understood a Bill would be introduced by which land purchase in Ireland would be largely accelerated. The first essential of land purchase was a correct map, so that he thought both landlords and tenants had a strong case in asking Parliament to put it in the power of the Ordnance Survey Department to undertake at once the survey of the counties yet remaining to be surveyed, and to bring the matter to as speedy a conclusion as possible.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am informed that much has been done to accelerate the re-survey of Ireland during the last three years. The out-turn of the surveyors is fully 75 per cent. greater than it was three years ago, and the out-turn of publication, although it has not yet increased in proportion, will eventually keep pace with the survey unless kept back by want of buildings. The provisions made for the work of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland has been steadily increased in recent years, and amounts this year to as much as £84,000, or more than 37 per cent. of the whole Vote for the United Kingdom. It is expected that the re-survey of Ireland and the publication of the maps will be completed well before the appointed date, viz., the 31st December, 1915, five years earlier than was expected when the programme of the survey was originally arranged. Re-survey on the 25-inch scale is proceeding in Antrim, Cork, Donegal, Down, Limerick, Tipperary, and Waterford, and it is complete in Clare, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Mayo, and the south half of Roscommon. The special revision of the 1-inch map of Ireland will also be completed during the present financial year. The President of the Board of Agriculture would be glad to see his way to further the progress of the survey both in Ireland and elsewhere, but the charge upon the Exchequer is a very heavy one, amounting in all to some £282,000, and there is no probability that an application to the Treasury for further funds would be successful.

House adjourned at a quarter past Twelve o'clock a.m. till Three o'clock p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 9th December, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) RETURNS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Loca Taxation in Ireland for the year 1900–1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRANSVAAL.

Copy presented, of the Liquor Licensing Ordinance, 1902 (No. 32), for the Transvaal [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SPIRITS (ABERDEEN, ELGIN, AND INVERNESS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 4th December; *Mr. Gordon*]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

LUNACY.

Copy of Report to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, the number of patients seen, and the number of miles travelled by the Visitors of Lunatics between 1st April and 30th September, 1902 [by Act].

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Return ordered, "of all the Draft Provisional Orders under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which in the Sessions of 1901 and 1902 respectively have been reported on by Commissioners; together with the names of the Commissioners; the first and also the last day of the sittings in each group; the number of days on which each body of Commissioners sat; the number of days on which each Commissioner has served; the number of days occupied by each Draft Provisional Order before Commissioners; the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; and the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 17.

Return ordered, "of Motions for Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17, showing the date of such Motion, the name of the Member proposing, the definite matter of urgent public importance, and the result of any Division taken thereon during Session 1902 (in the same form as, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper No. 346, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER No. 25).

Return ordered, "respecting application of Standing Order No. 25 (Closure of Debate) during Session 1902, under the following heads:—

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Date when Closure moved.	By whom moved.	Question before House or Committee when moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers for and against.

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 347, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE.

Return ordered, "of the number of Divisions of the House in Session 1902; stating the subject of the Division, and the number of Members in the majority and minority, Tellers included; also the aggregate number in the House on each Division; distinguishing the Divisions on public business from private; and also the number of Divisions before and after midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.206, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

PUBLIC BILLS.

Return ordered, "of the number of Public Bills, distinguishing Government from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1902; showing the number which received the Royal Assent; the number which were passed by this House but not by the House of Lords; the number passed by the House of Lords but not by this House; and distinguishing the stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were dropped or postponed and rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.205, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Return ordered, "of the number of Public Petitions presented and printed in Session 1902; with the total number of signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.204, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*

SELECT COMMITTEES.

Return ordered, "of the number of Select Committees appointed in the Session of 1902, including the Standing Committees and the Court of Referees; the subjects of inquiry; the names of the Members appointed to serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the number of days each Committee met, and the number of days each Member attended; the total expense of the attendance of witnesses at each Select Committee, and the name of the Member who moved for such Select Committee; also the total number of Members who served on Select Committees (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.201 of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Return ordered, "of the number of days on which the House sat in Session 1902, stating for each day the date of the month and day of the week, the hour of the meeting, and the hour of adjournment; and the total number of hours occupied in the Sittings of the House, and the average time; and showing the number of hours on which the House sat each day, and the number of hours after midnight; and the number of entries in each day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.203, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS).

Return ordered, "showing, with reference to Session 1902, (1) the number of Sittings on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at which Government Business had precedence; (2) the number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which private Members had precedence; (3) the number of other Sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had precedence; (4) the number of Sittings at which Government Business had precedence under a special Order of the House; (5) the number of Saturday Sittings; (6) the total number of Sittings at which Government Business had precedence; (7) the total number of days on which the House sat; (8) the total number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance; and (9) the number of days on which Business of Supply was considered (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 348, of Session 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Return ordered, "of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the House of Commons and brought from the House of Lords, and of Acts passed in the Session of 1902, classed according to the following subjects: Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Waterworks; Gas; Gas and Water; Lighting and Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, etc. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations or to Lighting and Improvement Schemes); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Gaols and other County Buildings; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Divorce; Naturalisation; Hospitals, and Miscellaneous."

"Of all the Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which in the session of 1902 have been reported on by Committees on Opposed Private Bills or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, together with the names of the selected Members who served on each Committee; the first and also the last day of the sitting of each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; the number of days on which each selected Member has served; the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved; and, in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed."

"Of all Private Bills and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the session of 1902, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, together with the names of the Members who served on each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; and the number of days on which each Member attended."

"And of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders withdrawn or not proceeded with by the parties, those Bills being specified which have been referred to Committees and dropped during the sittings of the Committee (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.200, of 1901)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Naval Torpedo Flotilla—Damage to Fishing Nets at Sidmouth.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can arrange, by way of compassionate allowance or otherwise, to give some compensation to the fishermen of Sidmouth for the loss sustained by reason of damage occasioned by the Royal Naval Torpedo Flotilla to their nets in Sidmouth Bay on the night of 9th July.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) As it appears that the damage done was not the result of any negligence on the part of the officers of the flotilla, whilst the fishing boats, on the other hand, were not complying with the Board of Trade regulations as regards lights prescribed for drift net-fishing, the Admiralty are advised that they are not liable for any compensation in this case.

Naval Construction.

MR. JAMES HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether orders have yet been placed for the contract-built battleship and cruiser and for the armour required for the dockyard-built battleship and cruiser authorised under the naval programme of the current financial year.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The order for the contract-built battleship has been placed; that for the contract-built cruiser has not yet been placed, but tenders are at present under consideration. No orders for armour for the battleship and cruiser to be built in the dockyards have yet been placed, but tenders for the armour for the battleship are at present under consideration.

Liverpool Telegraph Staff.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): To ask the Postmaster General if he will state the number and weekly wages of the postmen at Liverpool who, during the past twelve months, have attended the telegraph school at that office, and how many have been declared efficient and have been retained in the telegraph department at Liverpool.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Twenty postmen, at wages ranging from 19s. 6d. to 28s. a week, have attended the telegraph school at Liverpool. Twelve are now being employed in the telegraph branch, of whom ten have attained the first standard of efficiency, and one has passed the second standard.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR: To ask the Postmaster General, seeing that a telegraphist at Liverpool, who was number twenty-five on the seniority list, has recently been advanced to the clerks class, whether he will state what opportunity of appeal was afforded the seniors before they were passed over.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) In making promotions the officer best qualified for the vacant post is selected. I fear it would not be practicable to give the officers who are not selected an opportunity of representing their claims before a decision is arrived at.

Belfast Postal Deliveries.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that in connection with recent complaints of late delivery of the English mails in Belfast, instructions have been issued that deliveries must commence at a certain time, and that the Belfast postmaster has stated that no excuse will be taken in lieu of a prompt despatch; and whether, seeing that sufficient time is not given for sorting the mails, the Postmaster General will inquire into the circumstances of the case with a view to making a satisfactory arrangement.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) In consequence of complaints of delay received from the public, the postmaster of Belfast has given special attention to the question, and has very properly enjoined upon the staff the importance of securing punctuality in the deliveries of letters. His action has my entire approval. Sufficient time is allowed for sorting the mails under normal conditions.

Belfast Telegraph Staff.

Mr. SLOAN: To ask the Postmaster General, in view of the fact that the services of a number of substitutes in Belfast Telegraph Department have recently been dispensed with owing to slackness of work, while at the same time assistance required by the engineering branch has been refused owing to alleged pressure of work, whether he will state the qualifications of the clerks drawn from two small provincial offices; and, seeing that they are receiving an allowance of 3s. per diem, will he explain why local assistance was not obtained.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The two officers in question were reported to possess the qualifications necessary for temporary duties in the superintending engineer's office. As regards the latter part of the Question, I must refer the hon. Member to my reply to him of the 27th November last on the same subject†, to which I have nothing to add.

Halfpenny Postage.—Place and Date on Obliterating Stamps.

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): To ask the Postmaster General whether the obliterating stamps used upon postal matter charged at the halfpenny rate can be made to show, as in the case of other stamps, the place as well as the date of posting.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am considering the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion.

Education Bill—Clause 18 (3)—Model Schemes.

LIEUT.-COL. PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether it is the intention of the Board of Education to frame a model scheme or schemes under Clause 18, sub-Section (3); and, if so, when will they be issued.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The Board of Education will be ready to enter into communication with local education authorities on the subject of schemes, and to assist them, when invited to do so, with advice and suggestion. But they have no present intention of framing a model scheme or schemes.

Education Bill—Financial Arrangements during First Year of New System.

LIEUT. COL. PRYCE-JONES: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether there is any provision in the Education Bill to meet difficulties which the local authorities will experience in obtaining the money required to carry on the public elementary schools in the interval which will elapse in the first year before the Government grants will be received.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) It is not anticipated that there will be any difficulties of the kind suggested in the Question, nor would any provision in the Education Bill be the proper way of meeting such difficulties were they likely to arise. It is not the case, as the wording of the Question would seem to suggest, that the Parliamentary Grants in respect of the public elementary schools in the area of an authority are not paid until the expiration of twelve months after the appointed day. Some of the grants are paid by quarterly instalments; and the annual grants in respect of the various schools in an area will be payable to the authority at varying dates throughout the year. Arrangements will also be made for an early disbursement of some portion of the new aid grant to authorities.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To ask the President of the Board of Trade can he state, in view of the differential treatment prescribed by the Brussels Sugar Convention in respect of sugars and sugared and other analogous products, when coming from countries which grant bounties either on production or export, what measures it is proposed to take in order to ascertain from what country such sugars or products may have originally come; and is it proposed to require certificates of origin in respect of all such sugars or products as may be imported into this country.

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† See preceding volume, page 628.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) In the event of the Convention coming into operation, suitable measures will have to be taken by the Customs to distinguish sugar coming from foreign countries which grant bounties. I am not now prepared to make a detailed statement as to these measures, which will be provided for in the Bill to be introduced next session.

MR. GIBSON-BOWLES: To ask the President of the Board of Trade can he give the names of all States, not being signatories of the Brussels Sugar Convention, between which and Great Britain treaties exist containing the most favoured nation Clause.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Greece, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Liberia, Paraguay, Persia, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Switzerland, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Zanzibar have treaties binding Great Britain to give them the treatment of the most-favoured nation.

Government Agreements with Cunard Company and Atlantic Shipping Trust.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, have the agreements as regards shipping made with the Cunard Company and with Mr. Pierpont Morgan, or the Atlantic Shipping Trust, been yet completed; when will he lay copies upon the Table of this House; if they are not completed, can he state the cause of the delay; and can he state when the evening promised for the discussion of these agreements during the present sittings will be given.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The agreements have not yet been completed; they are complicated documents, the details of which have taken longer to settle than expected, and are still under consideration of the lawyers. I do not anticipate that the agreements can be laid upon the Table this session. The promise was to give an evening if desired after the agreements had been laid.

Bankruptcy Acts—Criminal Prosecutions.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): To ask Mr. Attorney General if his attention has been called to the remarks of the Recorder of London in the recent bankruptcy prosecution at the Central Criminal Court; will he say by whose direction was the prosecution instituted; and will he give instructions that in future prosecutions he will refuse to allow more than a reasonable number of counts in the indictment; and that unless the interests of public justice demand a warrant, the proceedings shall be initiated by information and summons only.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) My attention has been called to the matters referred to in this Question. The prosecution was instituted by the directions of the director of public prosecutions. The number of counts to be inserted in any indictment must depend on the circumstances of each case. The case in question was of a very complicated and intricate nature, and the indictment was no longer than was necessary in the opinion of the very able and experienced counsel by whom it was prepared. It is, of course, preferable that proceedings should be commenced by summons, but it is impossible to lay down any fixed rule as to the circumstances which may render a warrant expedient.

Uganda Railway.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state the cost of constructing and removing the temporary rope inclines used on the Uganda Railway.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The total expenditure on the rope inclines to which reference is made has been £31,362. This includes the greater part of the cost of removal, a comparatively small item in any case. Against this, on the other hand, for whatever they are worth, must be set the materials which have become available for use elsewhere.

Civil Servants and Private Trading.

SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if officers and clerks in the service of His Majesty's Government are under rules not to trade on their own account; and, in view of the fact that a number of them are dealing in excisable plate, as agents of tally house firms, without holding a plate licence, he will say what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) A civil servant is not allowed to engage in any business which is incompatible with his giving his whole official time to the public, or which may conflict with the proper performance of the duties of his office. Subject to this condition, he is under no restriction in the employment of his time out of office hours. As regards the latter part of the Question, if the hon. Member will furnish the Board of Inland Revenue with the names and addresses of any persons whom he believes to be selling plate without a licence, inquiry will be made with a view to prosecution if sufficient evidence is forthcoming.

Spiddal Pier, Galway.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the amount of money expended on the Spiddal Pier, County Galway, the number of persons employed in that work, and the weekly wage of each employee.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The expenditure amounts to £3,057. The number of persons employed varied as the works progressed; the maximum number was 100. The weekly wages of the employees were as follows:—Foreman mason, 36s.; time and storekeeper, 30s.; carpenter, 30s.; carters, 30s.; quarrymen, 15s.; labourers, 12s.

Irish Land Purchase—Rockford Estate, Connemara.

MR. O'MALLEY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the terms and conditions upon which the holdings on the Rockford Estate, Connemara, have been let to the tenants by the Congested Districts Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Seven of the new holdings have been sold to the tenants at seventeen years purchase of the rents, the prices varying from £157 to £186. The one remaining holding is about to be sold to the Connemara Basket Company.

Irish National Schools—Attendances of Assistant Teachers.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will consider the advisability of reducing the average attendance required for assistant teachers in Irish National Schools from sixty to fifty, owing to the increase of work in connection with new programme and the decrease of population, particularly in rural districts.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) It is not proposed to alter the scale of averages, according to which assistant teachers are appointed under existing rules.

Irish Convent National Schools.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the fact that the Board organisers have held, or are holding, courses of training in convents for the exclusive use of the inmates, and that a number of national school teachers are still deprived of facilities for training in the new system owing to the attendance of organisers in convents, whether he will arrange for the organisers to hold courses in larger non-convent national schools for the use of their staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The courses conducted in convent national schools are not limited to the inmates of convents. They are open to, and are attended by, the teachers of other national schools. Similar courses are also held in schools and buildings not in any way connected with convents. The Commissioners have made, and will continue to make, arrangements for courses in model schools and other non-convent schools so as to suit the requirements of all classes of national teachers.

Mullingar Rifle Range.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that negotiations for the establishment of a rifle range at Mullingar have been in the hands of the military authorities for nearly five years, and that all the occupiers of the lands proposed to be taken and all the landlords of same with one exception have consented to the taking of those lands, he can explain the cause of the delay in carrying out the completion of the proposed rifle range.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The negotiations have, as stated in the Question, been protracted but are now practically concluded. The hon. Member will understand that it is impossible to commence the construction of the range until the War Department is in possession of the land required, but as soon as the land is handed over we shall proceed.

Pacific Cable Board and Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that the Pacific Cable Board are about to enter into a pooling arrangement with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company; and, if so, whether he will veto the proposal in the interests of reduced cable charges.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) No, Sir. I have no reason to suppose that such an arrangement is contemplated by the Pacific Cable Board. But the Postmaster General is not directly represented on that Board and has no control over its proceedings. Any further Question on the subject should therefore be addressed to the Treasury.

Poor Law Emigration to Canada.

MR. WHITTAKER (Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the fact that the number of orphan or deserted children emigrated to Canada by Boards of Guardians has fallen from 360 in 1893 to 174 last year, while 934 children were sent out there during the first six months of 1900 by various accredited societies, and for those 934 children 5,613 applications from householders were received; and whether, seeing that the cost to the Guardians in sending children to Canada is only one payment not exceeding £24, while the expense of maintaining them in workhouse schools here is £30 a year, he will take steps to bring to the notice of Boards of Guardians the increased facilities and advantages now existing in Canada for such children.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am aware that the number of children emigrated to Canada by Boards of guardians in recent years has been less than was the case in 1893, and that the number of children sent out by private societies in 1900 was considerably less than the number in respect of whom applications were received. Boards of Guardians have from time to time been made aware by the Local Government Board of their powers in relation to emigration, and the matter was referred to in a Circular issued so recently as August, 1900. I have no reason to doubt that the Guardians are fully informed on the subject, but I shall not fail to avail myself of any suitable opportunity of pressing the matter on their attention.

Argentine Cattle Regulations.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he can say whether negotiations are proceeding with the Government of the Argentine Republic for the admission of live cattle for slaughter at certain ports in this country under due precautions against the importation of disease.

(*Answered by Mr. Hanbury.*) As I explained in my reply to the hon. Member for North Manchester on the 27th ultimo, we have suggested to the Argentine Government that they should take further precautions against the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease on lines similar to those we ourselves adopt. They have introduced, and, I believe, have now passed a Bill giving them the necessary statutory powers for the purpose, and I expect to hear shortly that a decree under the new law has been issued. If, as I have reason to expect, the terms of the new law and the decree issued thereunder prove to be satisfactory, I should hope that the negotiations which have been taking place may be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

China Operations, 1901—Clasps for Tientsin.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will lay upon the Table General Dorward's despatch of November, 1901, with reference to the Chinese regiment; and will he say whether a clasp will be given for Tientsin.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The question of a clasp for Tientsin was considered by the War Office and India Office and Admiralty in consultation at the time of the grant of the China 1900 medal, and it was decided that only two clasps should be given, one for Taku and one for the relief of Pekin. I have no copy of General Dorward's despatch in my possession, but I understand that it is not considered desirable to publish it.

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Sokoto.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he is aware that, by a treaty concluded in 1884, Mr. Joseph Thomson undertook, on behalf of the Niger Company, to pay to the Emir of Sokoto a sum of about £1,500 a year, that the treaty was renewed in 1890 and in 1894, that the Emir of Sokoto in those treaties was made to acknowledge the Niger Company as representatives of His Majesty's Government, and that this country, being still in possession of the consideration transferred in these treaties, has ceased the yearly payment to the Emir of Sokoto, and is now contemplating an expedition in the direction of Sokoto; and whether, seeing that a military expedition is now being sent against Kano, described by the Secretary of State for the Colonies as the Manchester of Africa, he will state what attempt has been made to remove by friendly negotiations the causes of difference between the Emir of Kano and His Majesty's Government.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E, for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): The yearly payment specified in the treaties referred to has not been made since the Royal Niger Company's rights were transferred to the Crown, as the Sultan of Sokoto has always refused to recognise the transfer. Attempts have constantly been made by Sir Frederick Lugard to establish friendly relations both with him and with the Sultan of Kano, but hitherto without success. The reports which have appeared in the newspapers with regard to expeditions against Sokoto and Kano appear to refer to the preparations which Sir F. Lugard has stated that he would have to make to ensure the safety of the British and French Commissioners appointed to delimit the boundary between the Niger and Lake Chad, who will commence their work in January, and who will have to spend a considerable time in the county to the north of Sokoto and Kano. It will be necessary to maintain communication with the Commissioners and to keep them regularly provided with the supplies upon which they will depend, and in view of the present attitude of the Sultans of Sokoto and Kano it is necessary not only to provide the Commissioners with a strong escort but also to take into consideration beforehand the possibility of hostile action on the part of those Sultans and to provide an adequate force to deal with it.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I understand that there is no present intention of attacking Kano?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That is my understanding. The military preparations which are being made are preparations only for the protection of our Commissioners.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Will the hon. Gentleman ask whether it is possible to give any Papers showing the attitude of these Mohamedan Kings later than the last annual Report of Sir F. Lugard?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, I will make inquiry.

South African War—King's Medal

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to grant the King's medal to officers and men, who, after serving Her late Majesty, were, on account of wounds or illness (attributable to service in the field), contracted while serving the King, unable to return to South Africa between 1st January and 1st May, 1902.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): As I have already explained to the

House, service in South Africa for some period between 1st January and 1st June, 1902, is held to be essential in order to earn the King's Medal. All officers or men who were invalided early in the war and returned between those periods are eligible, even if they did not complete eighteen months service.

Martial Law in South Africa—Case of Mr. Shœman.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, with reference to the court martial held in Cape Colony by the Standing Military Court, Western District, for the trial of Mr. J. H. Shœman, M.L.A., can he explain why no preliminary examination was held as provided in the instructions on Martial Law, issued 1st May, 1901, and seeing that a promise had been made by the military authorities to the prisoner's attorney that at least seven days' notice should be given him of the charges against the prisoner before he was brought to trial, will he explain why, only on the day previous to the trial, the charges were communicated to the prisoner, thereby depriving him of the opportunity of calling witnesses for his defence.

MR. BRODRICK: The points raised in the question have been included in the letter recently despatched to General Officer Commanding, Cape Colony, on this subject.

MR. PIRIE: Why did not the case come before the Commission ?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot say. Of course the Commission took their own course; I have no control over them.

MR. PIRIE: When can we have papers ? The case has aroused much interest in Cape Colony.

MR. BRODRICK: Time must be given for answers to be made to the letter sent to South Africa.

Factory Acts—"Particulars" Section—Wholesale Tailoring Trade.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any representations have been received to the effect that the Particulars section ought to be extended to outworkers in the tailoring trade; and if any, and what, steps are to be taken in the matter.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Yes, Sir. I have received such representations on behalf of outworkers in the wholesale tailoring trade, and after inquiry I have decided that the section ought to be extended to them. The draft order making the extension was published on the 18th of November.

Petroleum—Flash Point.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state the prescribed limits for the flash point of petroleum in Pennsylvania and New York; and whether, in view of the recent accidents from the use of low-flash oil in this country, he is prepared to introduce legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee who inquired into this matter.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I am informed that the method of testing petroleum adopted in Pennsylvania and New York is different from that in use in England. It is a fire test rather than a flash test, and merely gives the temperature at which the oil will ignite and burn in an open cup. If the results were reduced to terms of the flash point according to the Abel close test employed in England, they would show as nearly as possible 63 and 73 degrees Fahrenheit respectively for the States named. As regards the second paragraph, I am not at present satisfied that recent experience has strengthened the case for further legislation in this matter.

MR. TULLY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the information he has just given is contrary to the evidence of the experts before the Committee, of which I was a member ?

[No answer was given.]

Mallaig Pier.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, in view of the fact that under the West Highland Railway Company

Guarantee Act, 1896, it was arranged that the sum of £30,000 should be paid by the Treasury to the North British Railway Company towards the cost of constructing a pier breakwater and other works at Mallaig, will he state why the breakwater has not yet been constructed.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): This is entirely for the railway company, but I have communicated with them, and am informed that owing to the cost of the Mallaig extension of the West Highland Railway having greatly exceeded the estimate, the question of proceeding with the breakwater has been deferred.

Applecross (Ross) Road and Bridge.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that, owing to the bridge over the Applecross River having been closed on account of its dangerous condition, the people of the district are unable to reach the parish church and churchyard except by wading the river; and will he say whether the Congested Districts Board are prepared to provide a grant in aid for the construction of a new bridge.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am not to be held as assuming the accuracy of the statements which form part of the Question of the hon. Member, and with regard to the latter part I can only refer him to my reply to his similar Question on 12th November,† there having been no further action taken in the matter by the local authorities concerned.

Typhoid in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state whether the Local Government Board for Scotland have taken any steps to ascertain whether patients suffering from typhus or typhoid fever in the Island of Lewis are segregrated; and, if fever cases are not thus isolated, will he state the cause.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: As I have already informed the hon. Member, such measures of segregration as are possible in the Lewis crofters' houses have been employed by the district medical officer, who reports to the Local Government Board that efforts are made to treat the sick in a separate apartment.

MR. WEIR: Is the Secretary for Scotland aware that there are absolutely no means of isolation for fever patients at this place? Will the right hon. Gentleman make further enquiry?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Secretary for Scotland is, of course, aware of the fact.

Tolsta School Children.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the school at Tolsta, Island of Lewis, which has 196 scholars on its register, has been closed since the 3rd July last, and that the children have thus lost upwards of five months education, will measures be taken to stamp out the fever epidemic.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I have to refer the hon. Member to my previous answers relating to this matter. I can only add that a Report from the medical officer has been called for.

Ben Wyvis Grazings.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the grazings on the southern slope of Ben Wyvis, lying between the hill known as Little Ben Wyvis and the pass of Bailloch Mor, formerly in the occupation of crofters, are being fenced off for the extension of a deer forest; and, seeing that the crofters on the Heights of Strathpeffer have frequently urged that they should be allowed to occupy these lands, will the Secretary for Scotland consider the expediency of introducing an Amendment of The Crofters Act, 1886, so that the Crofters Commission may have power to allocate lands such as those indicated for the benefit of the crofters.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am given to understand the lands in question form part of the Wyvis Deer Forest. No application from the Heights of Strathpeffer Crofters for enlargement of holdings has reached the Crofters Commission. The Secretary for Scotland is not prepared to introduce legislation as suggested.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxiv., 749.

Culloden Estate, Inverness-shire.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the law agents to the trustees of the Culloden Estate, Inverness-shire, have commenced the eviction of crofter tenants, will he consider the expediency of introducing legislation at an early date, such as will give crofters holding under lease the benefits of The Crofters Acts, 1886.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am given to understand proceedings have been taken in one case for the removal of a tenant holding under lease on the estate referred to and therefore not a crofter within the meaning of the Crofters Holdings Act. As regards legislation I have nothing to add to the answers already given to the hon. Member on several occasions.

MR. WEIR: Is it not the fact that Mrs. MacDonald, who has eight children, was evicted on the 3rd July?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the Question.

Londonderry Telegraph Staff.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that the telegraph staff at Londonderry have been called upon to sign a paper repudiating their personal connection with a paragraph that appeared in the *Telegraph Chronicle* on 7th November, 1902; and whether this procedure has his sanction.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is not the case that anyone has been called upon to sign such a paper as the hon. Member describes; but certain members of the female staff at Londonderry of their own accord repudiated any connection with the paragraph in question.

Bee Instructors in Ireland.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what grounds was Mr. Read, of Straffan, honorary secretary of the Irish Bee-keepers' Association, removed from the position of bee instructor under the Department of Agriculture.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): His services at the Glasnevin Institute were discontinued on the ground that his residence in County Kildare was too remote from the scene. He still retains, however, the position of itinerant bee-instructor.

MR. TULLY: Has Mr. Horace Plunkett inquired personally in this matter, in view of the absurd appointment which has been made.

[No answer was returned.]

Irish Agricultural and Technical Training Schemes—Circulation in Irish Language.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what steps have been taken in the Irish-speaking districts to circulate in the Irish language the instructions issued by the Department of Agriculture on agricultural and technical training.

MR. WYNDHAM: The publication of agricultural and technical instruction schemes, promoted by local authorities is a matter that concerns these authorities alone. It is open to them, if they think it expedient, to issue such schemes in the Irish language. The schemes made by the Department in connection with cattle breeding have been printed and circulated in the Irish language. Some of the Department's leaflets will shortly be published in a similar manner.

Irish Local Government Auditors.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board can explain why two auditors, who were superannuated, were recalled to duty, in order to audit the accounts of the local boards; and whether it is proposed to appoint from the members of the present Poor Law service two auditors to discharge this work.

MR. WYNDHAM: The two retired auditors were re-employed pending the appointments, which have now been made, of two auditors on the permanent establishment.

Land Purchase Bill.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of

Ireland whether he can indicate the nature of the instructions that have been given to Sir Antony MacDonnell as to the preparation of material and collection of facts on which to base a Land Purchase Bill for Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: Sir, I must respectfully decline to discuss departmental communications between myself and official colleagues in respect of future legislation.

Labourers' Cottages in Cork.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board can explain the delays that have arisen in giving effect to the Provisional Order in Cork rural district to increase the plots of lands attached to existing labourers' cottages, seeing that the Local Government Board inspector held his inquiry in 1901; and will he state what steps will be taken to place the labourers in possession of the additional plots of land.

MR. WYNDHAM: On the 27th October, I stated it had been proved at the inquiry, that the occupants of sixteen existing cottages were not agricultural labourers, and that the issue of the Provisional Order would be deferred until the District Council considered these cases and to what extent the scheme should be modified in consequence. The Council has not, so far, taken any definite action in the matter.

Ballymote Lighting Arrangements.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board have received from the Sligo Rural District Council a memorial asking for powers under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1896, to light the town of Ballymote with acetylene gas, and to constitute the townlands comprising Ballymote the area; and will he state what steps have been taken to give effect to this memorial.

MR. WYNDHAM: No such memorial has been received. It is understood, however, that the Council proposes to apply for urban powers to light Ballymote. Upon receipt of the application the necessary steps will be taken in the matter.

The Council of Defence.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the duties appertaining to the position of President of the Council of Defence are still associated with the Minister in charge of Education; and, if not, whether he will consider the advisability of placing those duties for the future in the hands of the Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The President of the Council of Defence is not the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education is Lord Londonderry, who is not the President of the Council of Defence. I may add that the whole subject is at this moment engaging the very earnest attention of the Government, and, though I have no statement to make on the subject now, I hope early next Session to be able to do so.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I desire to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the right hon. Gentleman, in view of the new facts, doubts, and differences which have arisen as to the Sugar Convention, will consider if he cannot arrange for another debate on it in this House, before the Convention is ratified.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no ground for thinking that a debate would serve the purpose of clearing up the points to which the hon. Member wishes to direct attention. The hon. Gentleman knows the condition of public business, and he can surely hardly press the Government further on the matter.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give the House any further information as to the business for this week, and especially on Friday. May we assume that nothing will be taken this evening after the Uganda Railway Bill?

MR. TULLY: Is it proposed to proceed with the Irish Fisheries Bill tonight?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As to Friday, perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will not mind repeating his question tomorrow, when I will make a point of answering it. At this evening's meeting the first business will be the Uganda Railway Resolution, and I certainly should not propose to take any seriously controversial measure after that. But I think the Lords Amendments to the Patent Law Amendment Bill might be disposed of. It would be a convenience if we could also take the Committee of the Militia and Yeomanry Bill, which I hope will pass its Second Reading this afternoon, but I am aware that that is a very unusual request, and I could not put the Order down without the general consent of all parties.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): May we rely on having the London Water Bill reprinted, so that we can put down Amendments for the Report stage?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am informed that it was expected the Bill would be circulated this morning.

MR. LOUGH: How can we put our Amendments down unless we have it? The Bill has been greatly changed.

*SIR ARTHUR HAYTER (Walsall): I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not take the Committee stage of the Militia and Yeomanry Bill tonight. There are several Amendments I wish to put on the Paper.

MR. A. J. BALOUR: I quite recognise that my suggestion could only be acted upon by agreement with both sides, and the right hon. Gentleman may rely on it that I will not attempt to force that stage tonight.

MILITIA AND YEOMANRY BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [10th November.] "That the Bill be now read a second time:"—

Question again proposed.

*(2.30.) SIR ARTHUR HAYTER (Walsall) moved that the Bill be read a second time this day three months. He desired, he said, to protest, in the first place, against the Bill being taken at all during this part of the Session, which was to be devoted to the Education Bill and the London Water Bill. In the second place, he thought he could easily prove that the Bill was not by any means an innocent or simple measure, but introduced great and far-reaching changes, which were not at all required at the present time. His great objection to the Bill was that it gave powers to the Secretary of State which could already be exercised by Order in Council, and he could see no reason whatever why the Secretary of State should be so invested with exceptional powers. Moreover, the Bill was opposed to the territorial principle on which the Army system was based. The territorial principle had been adopted by Germany and Russia, and by the Japanese as well, and it had certainly proved very successful in our own case in the matter of recruiting. He did not propose to say much with regard to the Yeomanry part of the Bill, because there were many hon. Members opposite better acquainted with that organisation than he was who would state the objections to the way in which it was proposed to deal with the force.

He would ask the House to consider the first Clause of the Bill. It declared that for the purpose of forming Reserve divisions of the Militia and Yeomanry, the Secretary of State might relax or dispense with any enactment relating to the training of those forces. But what was the use of putting that into the Bill. The Militia Act gave power to the King in Council to order from time to time that the annual training be extended to not more than fifty-six days in any one year, that the training of all or any part of the Militia be reduced or even dispensed with. Thus His Majesty already possessed the powers this Bill would give to the Secretary of State, and he could see no reason why they should be handed over to the Secretary of State.

It was quite possible he might wish to keep a great number of men on foot without any training whatsoever, and it was a well-known fact, especially with regard to cavalry soldiers, unless they were continually drilled they were of little use.

Next he came to a much more serious part of the Bill, the second part of Clause 1, which provided that any man in a Reserve division might be transferred from one corps of Militia or Yeomanry to another, so, however, that a militiaman should not without his consent be transferred to a corps of another arm. That proposal absolutely set at naught the territorial system. It meant that a Cornish militiaman must be transferred to a Northumberland Regiment or a Devonshire man to a Derbyshire Regiment. Why did militiamen desire to join a particular corps? Simply because they knew the non-commissioned officers and men, and they certainly would be very reluctant to go to quite another part of the country. The only alleviating feature of the proposal was, that a man should not be transferred without his consent to an entirely different branch of the Army, he would not, in fact, be liable to be converted from an infantryman into an artilleryman, or from an artilleryman into an engineer. This proposed transfer from one regiment to another was strictly guarded against by regulations made under the Militia Act of 1882, which provided that no Militiaman could be transferred from the corps he enlisted in without his consent. That regulation would become waste paper if this Bill were passed, and he believed, if such a power was given, that it would do very great injury to recruiting, for the men would not be able to depend on their engagements being kept. They would in fact become very shy of accepting service in the force under such conditions.

Now he came to Section 2, which applied Sections 3 and 4 of the Militia Act to the Yeomanry. There was no objection whatever in the case of Section 30 which merely provided that the Secretary of State might raise such a number of yeomen and militiamen as the House had already provided for. But Section 4 in his opinion reduced the Bill to absolute nonsense. As he had already pointed out, power was given under the first Section of the Bill to the Secretary of State to move men from one corps to another just as he pleased. But Section 4 of the Militia Act provided that no man should be so transferred without his consent, and it was proposed to extend that provision to the Yeomanry. Why it was an absolute contradiction in terms of the second part of the Clause, and it ought to be deleted if the Bill was to become a permanent Act. Then under the last Section of the Bill a special service squadron of the Yeomanry, a sort of *corps d'elite*, was to be formed, which would be alone capable of serving abroad in case of war. He thought that would be a very mischievous thing for the Yeomanry as a whole, and the Yeomanry were not likely to regard the formation of such a corps with anything but jealousy. It was creating a corps within a corps, and certainly to pay some men £5 to engage for foreign service, while others get nothing, would be a poor compliment to the latter. Again, it would be a dangerous thing at the outbreak of a war to mix up these different country corps into one heterogeneous mass. He knew that the reason for the proposal was that the right hon. Gentleman wanted to find cavalry for his three last army corps. Would it not have been much better to say at once that he would raise a regular cavalry regiment, rather than to risk spoiling Yeomanry regiments by taking away their best squadron, and at the same time to take into the field a heterogeneous body with no cohesion and no right to be called a cavalry corps? His main objection to the Bill was that it placed the Militia and Yeomanry entirely in the power of the Secretary of State for War, and he certainly could see no reason why the right hon. Gentleman should be vested with liberty to transfer men from one corps to another, or to interfere with the training arrangements which were already open to be changed by Order in Council. If the Bill were read a second time he would put down Amendments to the various Clauses, for he thought the whole scheme required thoroughly sifting.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Sir Arthur Hayter.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said that ever since he had the honour of a seat in the House he had always opposed the Vote for the Yeomanry, because he thought it was impossible to justify the existence of the force. But during the last two years the Yeomanry had been completely changed and reformed in every particular, and had been made such a valuable force that, though he felt like Samuel among the prophets, he was now one of their warmest supporters. He was specially struck by the extraordinary success of the county Yeomanry regiments which were formed last year, although perhaps a little more riding drill was required, in order to avoid some of the casualties he had witnessed. That, however, was a detail which could be remedied in the near future. If the Yeomanry, however, were to be levelled up to the Militia they ought to have the advantages which the Militia enjoyed. Their bands ought to be paid for by the Government, and regular officers serving with them should be allowed to count such service for pension. Two objections were raised to that Bill. One was that the offer of £5 a year to a certain number of men would only be accepted by the worst possible men—by the scallywags. The other objection was that it would deplete the regiment of its best men. These arguments were mutually destructive, and he did not think there was much force in either of them. The object of the Bill, so far as the Yeomanry were concerned, was to form a *corps d'élite* to supplement the miserable weakness of the present cavalry regiments, and any one who had seen the cavalry regiments at Aldershot knew it was not too soon to supplement them by some means or other. It seemed to him that the proposal of the War-Office was very much like a sort of Cousin-German to the old Militia Reserve. It found a good many enemies, but during the course of a somewhat chequered military career he had the honour of serving in it, and he always found that the attraction of the Militia Reserve not only did not weaken the battalion, but was a considerable accession to the strength of the territorial regiment. He had never had much faith in the proposals of reform of the auxiliary forces adumbrated by right hon. Gentlemen on both sides. They had always appeared to him more or less like a merry-go-round. They started with much drum-beating, but when the band stopped they found themselves in precisely the same position as when they began. As he thought the Bill meant business with regard to the Yeomanry, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would succeed in placing it on the Statute-Book.

*MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said that the Secretary for War, bringing in a large scheme, desired to carry it out in the way his experts had elaborated it, and under these circumstances, no doubt, Parliament was often a nuisance to a Minister who desired that a scheme he had in hand should go quietly and smoothly. He understood, therefore, why the Bill had been brought forward at the fag end of the autumn sittings, when he was not likely to be hampered by unnecessary discussion and the necessity of wearisomely explaining the details, as he would be expected to do were the Bill brought on at the proper period of the session. Nevertheless Parliament had still some functions left, and there was an obligation on the Opposition, at all events, to see that Parliament understood the work to which it put its hand. When a Bill of this sort was brought before the House some explanation of its provisions should be given by the Minister in charge. It was not enough to say that at some time back those provisions had been discussed. Nobody carried in his head what had been said about technical details of a Bill brought in months ago, and it was the duty of the Minister to put the House in possession of the materials on which it could form a judgment. This was peculiarly necessary on the present occasion, for in the drafting of this Bill legislation by reference had been developed to a fine art in order to meet the exigencies of the Government situation, so that it was not easy for a Member to know what he was voting on unless he brought a library with him into the House. This Bill was very concisely drawn, and on the face o it appeared to be a very luminous measure. But closer examination of it soon dispelled that idea. For instance, Section 2 ran,—"Sections 3 and 4 of the Militia Act, 1882, relating to maintenance and government of the Militia shall apply to the Yeomanry." These artless words completely changed the constitutional relations of the Yeomanry. They placed the Yeomanry under the entire control of the Secretary of State for War. He had the greatest confidence in the public spirit of his right hon. friend, but he objected to make him a Parliament, or a sovereign body of him, right off. Whatever good there might be in Home Rule he was bound to say that, in this instance, the War Office was claiming a measure of Home Rule far exceeding anything which had ever yet been submitted to Parliament. The great scheme of Army reform introduced by the right hon. Gentleman might be a good scheme—he was not now discussing it—but this Bill was an integral part of it, and should not be passed without adequate consideration. How was it possible now to give it that consideration? This Bill could not have come on at all were it not for the arrangement come to by the two sides of the House with respect to the London Water Bill, and it was a little hard that people who had, in order to conduct public business in a reasonable fashion, consented to that arrangement should have this Bill thrust down their throats before they had an opportunity of digesting it. It seemed to him also that the course now being adopted by the Government was not in accordance with the understanding arrived at when the business of this special session was arranged. Speaking on the 16th October last, the Prime Minister, in moving his Resolution about Government business, said that the business in this winter sittings would be the Education Bill, the London Water Bill, the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, the Osborne Estate Bill, and one or two oddments; but there was not a word in the right hon. Gentleman's statement about this Bill, which involved such sweeping changes as he had pointed out; on the contrary, the only reference to any other matters of legislation than those specifically mentioned was the reference to such non-controversial matters as there might be a general desire to pass into law. He submitted that he had made out a complete case against proceeding with this Bill. He might also put it so high as to say that it would be almost a breach of faith to proceed with it if any objection were taken. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman was of opinion that it would pass without discussion, but they did not wish to pass it without discussion. They claimed the benefit, not only of the spirit, but the letter, of the undertaking which the Prime Minister gave to the House, and, therefore, while he was the last person to put difficulties in the way, he did not apologise for making the Motion that the debate be now adjourned.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) seconded the Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned." —(*Mr. Haldane.*)

(3.2.) THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not imagine for a moment that we think he is desirous of obstructing in any way the business of Parliament in proposing the Motion he has made this afternoon, but he would probably not have taken up the attitude he has done if he had fully apprehended the scope and intention of the measure now presented to the House. I do not know how far I shall be in order in going into the merits of this measure on the Motion of the right hon. Gentleman, but I really think there is one point which is not appreciated in any quarter of the House, or, at least, by those Members who have spoken in opposition to the measure today, namely, that this is not in any sense a new proposal which is brought before Parliament. It is not a demand for additional men or additional money, nor is it a measure brought forward in order to obtain Parliamentary assent to proposals which have not already obtained the assent of Parliament. As a matter of fact, and I put this most strongly to the House, this measure contains two propositions, both of which have not only been assented to already by the House of Commons, but they have been discussed. In one case, so far as I know, the proposal was unanimously agreed to. In the other case, I cannot recall a voice which was raised against it. Both proposals involve a sum which was put into the Estimates in 1902, and one of them a sum which was put into the Estimates in 1901, and in each case these sums were voted by the House. I will not go into the merits of the Bill, but if Mr. Speaker will allow me, I will put the object very briefly. All that is required is simply this. You have the power by the Vote of Parliament to raise a number of men for the Militia Reserve and to pay them, but you have not got the power, as has since been discovered, to suspend their training, and if you raise them on those terms, you will have to train them exactly the same as the ordinary Militia require training, which, in the opinion of the military authorities, the Reserve does not. In the same way as regards the special service section of the Yeomanry, you have the power of Parliament to train and pay them, but you have not the power at this moment to call them out without the special power we propose to take in this Bill. If they were new proposals containing serious controversial matter, then I think probably the right hon. Gentleman might be justified in calling attention to the fact that this is not one of the measures specifically referred to in the speech of my right hon. friend on 16th October, but, as a matter of fact, with regard to the Militia not one word has been said against the proposal in these two years, in both of which I brought the subject before the House in my speech on the Estimates. As regards the Yeomanry, the Committee appointed to inquire into the subject strongly approved of this experiment being tried. The Committee was composed entirely of Yeomanry officers, and they expressed a year and a half ago the view that it should be attempted. I brought the matter as prominently as I could before the House in March last, and in all the debates which have taken place I do not remember that a single word was said in opposition. I say that is how the matter stands before the House of Commons at this moment. I would ask the House of Commons to understand our difficulty. I do not bring forward the Bill in pursuance of any ambitious scheme of any sort or kind, but merely to prevent the extraordinary expenditure involved in calling up totally untrained men to which we were put during the late war. It does seem a little hard that forces which have been voted by Parliament, and the money for which has been approved by Parliament, should not be allowed to be raised on account of the technical difficulty which exists, and which is removed by this Bill. I would ask the House to remember that unless we get legislation on the subject now, it is practically putting off for a year measures which the military authorities consider to be essential to place us in a proper state of defence. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider this Motion. I believe that the time is ample for us to discuss such objections as may be raised, and I sincerely trust that we may be allowed to proceed with the discussion.

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick) said he was glad his right hon. and learned friend had made this Motion. He did think that the House was not being treated in the way it had a right to expect in regard to proceeding with the Bill at this time of the session. The right hon. Gentleman opposite had truly said that his hon. and learned friend could not be accused of making this Motion from a dilatory motive or a desire to impede the Government in the performance of necessary business. Obstruction in the ordinary sense could not be effective at the present time. The House was too thin and small to make obstruction effective if the Government wished to press anything. Their point was that the House relied upon the programme put before it, and the statement that it would not be asked to undertake controversial business other than that mentioned in the speech of the Prime Minister. The Government had the House at its mercy. The Secretary of State for War did not think this Bill urgent in the ordinary sense in which the House regarded urgency. What the right hon. Gentleman did plead was that it was something so consequential, and of so little importance considering what has proceeded in military discussions this year or the previous year, that it really did not require the attention of a full House. That was a statement which was not accepted by hon. Members on more than one side of the House who had paid special attention to this question. The real difference of opinion between the right hon. Gentleman and the House on this occasion was as to whether this Bill was so small and so consequential as had been stated. A considerable part of the House held that it was not so small and consequential, and that it did involve larger changes in principle than the right hon. Gentleman admitted. When a dispute of this kind arose between a Minister and the House as to whether the House had previously pledged itself in the debates in a way that rendered it unnecessary to discuss a particular measure, the House alone should be the judge, and at present it was too thin for them to expect an opinion as to whether this measure was a consequential part of the larger scheme of which it had already approved. When the Bill was brought forward earlier in the year at least two Members on the Government side of the House had expressed the strongest objection to the Bill being pressed. If objection to the Bill existed, it was not confined to one side of the House, and that entitled them to say that the right hon. Gentleman ought to pause before proceeding with it, on the assumption that it was one which did not need much discussion. The Bill involved some large changes in principle.

MR. BRODRICK: May I remind the right hon. Gentleman that they have already been discussed and approved by Parliament — one of them on two occasions?

SIR EDWARD GREY said that was his very point. The right hon. Gentleman said the House had already approved of the large changes which were covered by the Bill. The question of difference between hon. Members and the right hon. Gentleman was whether a full House in giving its general approval to his scheme was contemplating then a measure of this kind as an integral part of it. He held that they could not go on with this Bill without discussing the large changes of principle which were involved, even though those changes were small in practice. They did not know but that this was part of a much larger scheme. What he asked the Prime Minister was this—Was it fair to the House of Commons to press this measure forward after the statement he had made at the commencement of the session. Of course "breach of faith" was a strong term, and should never be used except in circumstances of extreme exasperation and provocation; but no one could read the statement of the Prime Minister at the commencement of the session without seeing that the introduction of this measure was a most unexpected departure from the programme then announced. The Prime Minister, after stating that programme which, of course, included the Education Bill, and the London Water Bill, said, "There are a few other measures on the Order Paper which I think are uncontroversial. With regard to these I shall certainly not think of asking the House to make any exceptional exertions, but, if there is a general desire that they should pass, I think they ought to pass into law." He did not think it was consistent with that statement that this measure, which was clearly regarded as controversial, should be pressed. He therefore supported, and asked the House to support, the Motion of his hon. friend that the debate be adjourned.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No notice has been given to me that objection was going to be taken against proceeding with this Bill, on the ground that it was inconsistent with what I had said on a previous occasion. I am the more surprised that this argument should be sprung on the House, because it was perfectly understood that in making arrangements yesterday to meet the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite in regard to the Water Bill, I especially begged that it should be understood that no objection should be raised to the Bill of my right hon, friend without notice.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I beg pardon; I was not present myself, but I understand that the right hon. Gentleman, the Leader of the Opposition, did enter a *caveat.*

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am in the recollection of the House as to the general accuracy of what I have stated. But the right hon. Gentleman will see that that has nothing whatever to do with my speech at the beginning of the Autumn Sittings. I gather that it is on that speech that the right hon. Gentleman who has sprung this Motion on the House relies. I had not had time to read all the debates on the 16th of October. Only one of my speeches has been quoted. After making it, I was reminded, immediately after I sat down, that I had omitted to mention the Militia and Yeomanry Bill, and I took care to remedy that omission when I came to reply on the afternoon's debate. It is reported in *Hansard*, which seems to be very accurate, that I said, "The only general pledge I give to the House is that it will not be asked to discuss general legislative questions which, however interesting or important, can be deferred to a subsequent session. I believe in that connection I ought to mention in the first place a one-Clause Bill which my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War will introduce and explain in good time, and which he tells me ought to be passed without any undue delay." I am quite sure that everybody who heard me make that statement will recognise that part of the programme for the Autumn Sittings was the Bill of my right hon. friend. I hope, therefore, that that particular argument will not be used beyond the point to which it can be reasonably carried, seeing that we have always regarded the passage of this Bill as eminently desirable, and have stated this on the first day of the session. I venture respectfully to suggest to the House that, at all events, the explanation of the Bill by my right hon. friend should be heard, and that he should be allowed to state his reasons for thinking that this is the proper time for passing the Bill. It will then be admitted, I think, that it is not with the view of obtaining any Party credit for the Government, but in the public interest. I hope, therefore, that the right hon. and learned Gentleman will not press his Amendment, but will give my right hon. friend a chance of stating his case to the House of Commons.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that the House would have listened with great interest to the Secretary of State for War if he had made a statement when the Bill was introduced. The difficulty was that there were important points in the Bill which many Members, who did not expect it to be proceeded with, would wish to discuss. The Secretary of State for War made the point that the Militia Vote had not been discussed this year. That was quite true, because it came on at nine o'clock, when few Members were in the House. But, on the general discussion of the whole scheme of Army Corps and Yeomanry, it was very strongly opposed in many parts of the House. He begged to support the Motion of his right hon. friend for the adjournment of the debate.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he was surprised to hear the right hon. Baronet read the passage from the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury so as to suggest that there was a breach of faith. He remembered that speech, and had himself intended to quote the passage which the Prime Minister had read from his speech—and it was an extraordinary and rare instance of the accuracy of the *Hansard* report—that it was proposed to introduce a one-Clause Bill.

SIR EDWARD GREY said he did not adopt the term "breach of faith."

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he did not say so, but that the right hon. Gentleman had read the passage so as to suggest that there had been a breach of faith. The reference to the "one-Clause Bill" had suggested to him something quite informal, which would have been brought in and passed without any discussion. He was, therefore, surprised when he saw what the Bill was. Of course, they might have a one-Clause Bill to abolish the Monarchy, and really this one-Clause Bill did the next thing to it. This one-Clause Bill proposed to do for the Secretary of State for War that for doing which James II. was sent over the water. The Act of Settlement recited that James II. "by the assistance of divers evil counsellors, judges, and Ministers employed by him, had endeavoured to subvert and extirpate the Protestant religion, and the laws and liberties of this kingdom by dispensing with, and suspending the laws." That was exactly what this Bill was to enable the Secretary of State for War to do, as though he were to be set up as a sort of James III. It said, "For the purpose of forming reserve divisions of the Militia and Yeomanry, the Secretary of State may, by regulations, relax or dispense with the provisions of any enactment relating to training of Militia and Yeomanry, so far as regards their application to men in the reserve divisions, &c." This gave him a dispensing power over every enactment that referred to the subject matter. For a one-Clause Bill this was rather a tremendous measure, and it did not in the least answer to the expectation raised in his mind by the words used by the First Lord of the Treasury when he introduced it. He was merely dealing now with its character in point of weight and importance. It was a large thing to give to a Minister a dispensing power over any enactment whatever. The right hon. gentleman the First Lord had made the suggestion that before deciding whether the House should continue the discussion on this measure, it should hear a larger description from the Secretary for War as to what it was intended to do. If that suggestion were accepted, he presumed it would be necessary for the right hon. Gentleman to withdraw his Motion, on the understanding that it could be revived, if necessary, after the right hon. Gentleman's explanation. He should like to add that undoubtedly these sittings had been crowded with new measures and new proposals, which no one ever expected. They had had new Supply, another Appropriation Act, and tonight they were to have further Supply set up, or probably a third Appropriation Bill. That was not quite the way to treat special sittings—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not addressing himself to the Question before the House.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he would merely repeat his suggestion, which seemed to be the most reasonable way of dealing with the matter—viz., that the right hon. Gentleman should withdraw his Motion, and allow the Secretary for State to explain the measure. The Motion might then be revived.

(3.35.) MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he did not suggest that the Government had committed anything like a breach of faith in the matter. What were the facts? They were told at the beginning of the Autumn Sittings that the Government were not going to proceed with any large measures, except the Education Bill and the London Water Bill. Then the right hon. Gentleman said that there might be one or two small Bills, not of a controversial or very urgent nature; but at a later period, not leading the House to suppose that it was uppermost in his mind, the right hon. Gentleman interposed a remark in regard to this Bill, which had not then been introduced. It was described by the right hon. Gentleman as a one-Clause Bill; and they naturally supposed that it was some simple Departmental measure, which might require half-an hour or an hour to discuss, and which would not raise any serious difference of opinion. Therefore, he thought that, although there was nothing in the nature of a breach of faith, there was an understanding, or an impression, created in the House, which was not consistent with the course that the Government now proposed to take. They did not expect that they should be called upon, after the two main measures had been disposed of, to discuss any question which would raise new issues, on which there was considerable difference of opinion, and which might have very important results. No one could say that the Bill was not an important one, or one which did not raise considerable opposition. As was observed by his right hon. friend, there were three hostile notices on the Paper, two of them by hon. Members opposite and, as the hon. Gentleman had just said, it gave dispensing power over certain legislation. That power was sometimes given, but many of them thought the present proposal was going rather further in that direction than Parliament, with due regard to its functions and principles, ought to go by releasing a Government Department from the ordinary provisions of the law, and entrusting to it practically legislative power. The right hon. Gentleman asked by the Bill to be what the Roman Emperor was—relieved from obligation to the law. Whatever confidence there might be in the right hon. Gentleman's Department—he would not discuss that now—was it right that any Department should be granted such wide powers without a far larger and fuller discussion than was now likely? What was the position of the House? Hon. Members had been exhausted by long debates; the attendance was exceedingly thin; and many hon. Members, who had the knowledge and experience enabling them to take part in the discussion of the Bill, were not present; and could not have been present considering the notice that was given. The discussion, therefore, under such conditions, must be of a perfunctory character; and it was not right that the large matters to which the Bill led should be proceeded with at this period of the Session. It had been suggested, as he understood, by the right hon. Gentleman that what was chiefly desirable was that the purport of the Bill should be explained. If that were the main thing desired, he did not suppose that there would be any objection to allowing the Secretary of State to make a statement; and he presumed, under the circumstances, that his right hon. friend would be willing to withdraw his Amendment. But that could only be on the condition that if the statement of the Secretary of State removed the objections which were felt to the Bill, if it put the Bill on a new footing and made it appear to be no longer controversial, then the House might consent to go on with it; but that if objections were still entertained to it, if any considerable section of the House still felt it was too large a measure to be proceeded with at such short notice, the Government should consent to the debate being adjourned and to the Bill going over until next session. It was only on some such terms that they could consent to allow a statement to be made. But if the Government seriously proposed, in spite of the difficulties which had been stated in a manner that carried conviction to every dispassionate mind, to persist with the Bill, it would be necessary for them to enter a protest, which was conveyed in the Motion for the Adjournment, and to take the sense of the House as to whether the Bill should be proceeded with on such an untimely occasion.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, W.R., Whitby) said he would urge the Government to accept the Motion of the right hon. Gentleman. He thought the Prime Minister was under a misapprehension. The Secretary of State for War stated, just before the Prime Minister entered the House, that he had already sufficiently explained the Bill. Further, the right hon. Gentleman said that he had explained it to such an extent that the House was already committed to it. Either they knew what the Bill contained or they did not. If they did, then it was not necessary that they should abstain from pressing the Motion; if they did not know what the Bill contained, and that a longer statement from the Secretary of State for War was necessary, then it was obvious that they ought not, at that period, to be called upon to consider it. It was true that the Secretary of State for War made an explanation on the Estimates, but that was part and parcel of the whole scheme of Army Administration; they could not pick out the particular part which referred to the Bill; and they naturally passed the Estimates as they were presented to them. But he could not see how the House could be said to have given consent to a Bill which, at the time, was not in existence. If the Government wished to press it, they could carry the Bill; but whether that would be wise or desirable, in the teeth of strong opposition from all quarters of the House, was another question. He would, furthermore, appeal to the Prime Minister on the ground that, as his right hon. friend had said, the Bill was part and parcel of that larger scheme which was not yet in full operation. Before they discussed a Bill which introduced a great many serious changes they ought to see the other parts of the scheme in full operation; and on that ground he would ask his right hon. friend to consent to the Bill being postponed.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) said he would most respectfully urge on the House that the Bill was an urgent Bill. What they wanted especially was a reserve for the Militia. Any hon. Member who had studied the Army at all would agree that the Militia was the stand-by of the nation. He had seen that at the Crimea. It was very important that they should have a reserve of Yeomanry; but he disagreed very much with the proposal that the Yeomanry should be called to pass from regiment to regiment, except in time of war. There were at present in the country a number of men returned from the War who found it difficult to get work. Each of them would know where they could get a little extra money by joining the reserve of Militia or Yeomanry if the Bill were passed; and he was satisfied that great injury would be inflicted if the measure were not proceeded with.

*MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) said he was very much astonished at the attitude which had been taken up by many hon. Members with reference to the measure, especially at the attitude of his hon. friend the Member for the Whitby Division. For a long time past hon. Members on both sides of the House had been calling out for Army reform; and he believed that there was no keener Army reformer than his hon. friend. Yet, on the present occasion, when his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War came forward with a very small but very necessary measure of Army reform, it was immediately met by a dilatory Motion from the other side, which was supported by his hon. friend. It seemed to him that, in Army reform they ought to take small measures, such as that before the House, and press them through when they had time at their disposal. For his part, he could not understand what the objections to the Bill were. They had been told that under sub-Section 2 very large powers would be given to the Secretary of State in connection with the Yeomanry; but these were the very powers which had been in force since 1882 in connection with the Militia, and he had never heard that any bad result had followed from the exercise of them. Why, therefore, should they not be entrusted to his right hon. friend in connection with the Yeomanry? Then, as to that part of the Bill in which he was more immediately concerned, the powers given to the Secretary of State in connection with the Militia, he, speaking as a Militiaman, would submit to the House that the reserve of Militia promised by the Secretary of State would be far better than the old Militia reserve. It seemed to him most extraordinary that when his right hon. friend the Secretary of State asked the House to pass this small Act to carry out the purpose which he had fully explained both this year and last, for which the House had already voted the money, and which would give the country a real reserve of Militia, that he should be met with a dilatory Motion of this kind. Speaking as a Militiaman, he hoped this Motion would be defeated, and that the Government would press forward this Bill. It was impossible to obtain a Militia reserve without this Bill, and it was only right that the Bill should be passed in order to enable that reserve to be created without delay.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said the hon. Member who had just sat down contended that all army reformers ought to support this small Bill, because they ought in the interest of army reform to support all such small Bills as this whenever the House had time to pass them. The contention of his hon. friend opposite was that the Bill was a retrograde step.

*MR. SPEAKER said the question whether this was a good or a bad measure was not before the House. The question was whether the debate should be adjourned.

MAJOR SEELY apologised for having trespassed beyond the subject before the House. He should support the Motion for the Adjournment because he believed, quite apart from the Bill being a retrograde measure in itself, it was as contentious a Bill as could well be. The people acquainted with it were almost unanimously opposed to it, and although no one would accuse the Government of a breach of faith in the matter, the House contended that the Government had made a mistake in saying that the Bill was non-controversial, when, as a matter of fact, directly it was put into words it was highly contentious. He strongly urged the House to support the Motion for the Adjournment.

*LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich) thought the House was in a rather curious position. As he understood, the right hon. Gentleman had been asked by his right hon. friend the Prime Minister and others to explain the Bill, and as he (Lord Charles Beresford) understood, if that explanation were made the Motion for the Adjournment would not be persisted in. Would the right hon. Gentleman explain the measure?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot on the Motion for Adjournment.

*Lord CHARLES BERESFORD said in that case he would offer a few remarks upon the Motion for the Adjournment and the reason why he should vote for it. He should vote for the Adjournment because he thought this Bill was a portion of a patchwork scheme of Army reform; it was part of an enormous scheme which the right hon. Gentleman had taken in hand. Whether the scheme was a good or a bad scheme he did not know, but from what he had heard he thought the whole scheme was a very bad scheme indeed, and that any such scheme of reform was perfectly impossible. He should also vote in favour of the Motion for the Adjournment because to bring forward this patchwork Bill at this late period of the Session was in his opinion impolitic in itself, and because he believed that such a course would land us into enormous expenditure without our getting any of that efficiency which we all wished for. On those grounds, and believing that, as some a scheme of Army reform had been proved to be necessary for this country the matter should be amply, quietly, but not hurriedly debated, he should support the Motion for the Adjournment. They should look at the matter more from a national than a Party point of view.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said his noble friend who had just addressed the House was an Irishman in the best sense of the word, and his speech on this occasion seemed to have been one of those Irish conundrums so difficult of solution. The Motion before the House was to prevent the Bill being discussed. Yet the noble Lord voted for it because he thought the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman was a bad one. The noble Lord could form no opinion on the matter until he had heard why it was desirable that a considerable part of the scheme should be passed now. No doubt his right hon. friend could give good reason for passing this portion of his scheme at the present time, and he was inclined to think his right hon. friend might now regret not having made a statement when he moved the Second Reading. But was not the House stultifying itself in discussing a dilatory motion of this kind without knowing what the scheme was?

*Mr. KEMP (Lancashire, Heywood) pointed out that the hon. Member for King's Lynn had suggested that the House ought to hear the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State first of all, and then if it was not satisfactory the Motion for the Adjournment of the debate should continue. The Prime Minister, quoting from a speech in which he stated he was going to bring in this Bill, said the Bill would be explained in good time. Was this explaining it in good time? As he understood it, this was an important part of a large scheme of Army reform, and if that was so it ought to be discussed at the time when the whole question came up and not at the end of a Session such as the present. The House had met for the Education and the Water Bills, and they did not expect to have other important questions brought forward for discussion. He would be very sorry to oppose anything which had for its ostensible object the reform of the Army, but he strongly objected to the manner in which this matter was being dealt with, and therefore he should support the Motion.

*Sir ARTHUR HAYTER said the right hon. Gentleman had stated, and had been backed up by the hon. and gallant Member, that this Bill was absolutely essential in order to alter the training of the Militia. If that was so, what had become of that article in the Militia Act which stated that His Majesty in Council might order the training to be extended or to be dispensed with? That article was in force now, and therefore this Bill could not be required. Did the right hon. Gentleman mean to maintain that the question whether men should be changed from one regiment to another, and from one county to another, had ever been discussed in this House?

(3.59.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 60; Noes, 90. (Division List No. 621.)

AYES.

Beckett, Ernest William
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn)
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Crombie, John William
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Kemp, George
Kitson, Sir James
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Saunderson, Rt Hn-Col. Edw. J.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Haldane and Major Seely.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockie, John
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. BRODRICK: Before proceeding to describe the scope of the Bill, I may say that it is through no fault of mine that I have not explained this measure hitherto. I did explain its main points under the Ten Minutes Rule, but at a time when the House was in a state of excitement over an incident which had just occurred, and, through no fault of mine except that I could not make myself heard, was unable to gauge the full effect of the measure. Again, when I was called on the other night, an hon. Member rose and moved the Adjournment of the debate. On the present occasion I thought it was only reasonable and courteous to the right hon. Gentleman opposite, who had given notice of his intention to move the rejection of the Bill, to listen to what he had to say, and before I had an opportunity to rise, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Haddingtonshire moved the Adjournment of the debate. But I have now an opportunity of bringing the scope of the measure before the House, and I will endeavour to do so without taking up an undue amount of time.

First of all, I think there is very considerable misapprehension in the House as to the scope of the measure. Several speeches have been made indicating a belief that some large new principles are affirmed by the Bill, that very large new powers are to be given to the Secretary of State, and that there is an amount of change involved which the House has not contemplated, and which would justify a very considerable discussion at a period of the Session when it could not be carried on without great disadvantage. I think I can show the House that all these contentions are unsound, and that the scope of the measure is limited. To begin with, it is not a measure to take the opinion of the House as to the establishment of the Militia and Yeomanry reserve. What was the position of the Militia during the past campaign? It consisted of an establishment of 150,000 men which had always been at a strength of about 100,000—that is to say, the Militia had 100,000 men to fulfil functions assigned to 150,000. Each regiment, in other words, was short of one man in three. But that did not represent the full effect of the position of the Militia. They were liable to send to the Line at any moment 30,000 men who were liable to be called upon for Line service, and who were, in fact, so called upon during the late campaign. Consequently, a Militia colonel who ought to have had about 1,000 men in his regiment, taking the average of all the regiments, found himself, to begin with, with 650, and with the full expense of the permanent staff and establishment for a complete regiment. He saw three out of every ten of these men called away to serve in the Line. Thus the force, already reduced to 100,000, was further reduced to 70,000. But even that was not the full extent of the difficulty. Of these 70,000 men, half were recruits in their first year, men who had joined at the age of seventeen or a little over, and who were not physically fit to be put in the field. Even in this country it was a strong thing to put a boy of seventeen in the field.

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): But how often is it done?

MR. BRODRICK: I think the hon. Member will agree with the remark I made, whatever he may say as to what has been done. Even if these men had been physically fit, they were not sufficiently trained to be put in the field against European troops. Thus the actual numbers of the active Militia two years ago, after the Militia Reservists had joined their Line battalions, were about 35,000 men instead of 150,000. I am sure the House will agree that that was a condition of affairs which no War Minister could possibly leave alone. It was recognised in the beginning of 1900 by the enormous expenditure incurred in rapidly collecting together the men who had served in the Army and Militia, who were induced to come hurriedly forward, and who were rapidly arranged into Royal Reserve regiments.

That was the condition of affairs which I put before the House early last year, and which the House debated on a Resolution distinctly carrying out the proposition, to give legislative effect to which is the object of the main Clause of this Bill. I proposed to the House, as the cheapest, most efficient, and most certain way of bringing the Militia up to its proper strength of 150,000, that 50,000 men who had served in the Army and completed their service in the Line Reserve, or had served for ten years in the Militia, should be allowed to take 4d. a day to join a Reserve for the Militia, to be called up in case of national emergency. That proposition was the only one of the numerous propositions I then submitted in a scheme which the Militia authorities inform me is working out satisfactorily in almost every detail, which, so far as I am aware, was unanimously approved of by every speaker, and after three days debate was specifically approved of by the House in these terms: "That it is expedient that six Army Corps," and so forth, "be organised," and "That a Reserve for the Militia be enrolled not exceeding 50,000 men." We are actually under pledges to the men who have joined the garrison regiments. The principle upon which the garrison regiments were formed was to give the men who had completed their service in the Line and in the Reserve one of two alternatives. They might go back to civil life if they liked; but if they desired to continue further service up to twenty-one years they could do so, by going into the garrison regiments, and then, after two years, transferring themselves into the Reserve of the Militia. Having before us the Resolution of Parliament sanctioning that arrangement, and the Vote for the money, the War Office, as we were entitled to do, issued to the men who had come forward to join the garrison regiments the pledge of Parliament that they should be subsequently allowed to serve in the Reserve of the Militia, and in March or April a number of the men will be in a position to take that service. How do we stand? It was not, I admit, pointed out before I made the proposal that, under the existing Militia Acts, if you enrol a Militiaman in the Reserve he is subject to all the Militia enactments with regard to training, and to remove those regulations the right hon. Gentleman asks: "Why do you not do that by Order in Council?" But an Order in Council is intended only for temporary cases in which it is not thought necessary to train a particular corps in a particular year, and, besides, it is subject to the provisions of the Militia Acts, which do not contemplate the establishment of a Reserve for the Militia, which is now desired. Obviously, therefore, the most straightforward course for the War Office was to bring forward their proposals in the form in which we have submitted them to the House. It seems to be supposed that power can be given to the Secretary of State for War to dispense with all the enactments relating to the Militia; but, as a matter of fact, those only which relate to training are touched, and all the general enactments with reference to the Militia remain exactly the same. I therefore hope that this portion of the Bill—involving the good faith of the War Office, which has been pledged to the men in the garrison regiments that they should be permitted to enter the Reserve of the Militia—shall be regarded as non-controversial, and that the discussion shall be confined to those portions relating to the Yeomanry which are regarded as novel. The chief provision in that section of the Bill is that which proposes to ask 5,000 of the Yeomanry to agree to serve abroad in case of emergency, and to give them £5 a year per man for that obligation.

Many things have been said about this. The first is that it is establishing a Reserve similar to the old Militia Reserve, which provided a force of 100,000 men—one-third available, one-third recruits, and one-third taken away from the Line. How is it with the Yeomanry? I ask the House to vote a large additional sum for the Yeomanry, because the value of the Yeomanry as a mounted service has been clearly established by their record in South Africa, and considering that within a year of the time within which I had laid my new proposals with regard to the force before the country, it has gone up from 9,000 to 27,000, and the numerous demands for the establishment of new regiments which come before the War Office, I do not think it is too much to ask that out of the 35,000 men proposed to be raised 5,000 should be available for service abroad in case of need, leaving 30,000 available for service in this country. I do not believe that the general force of the Yeomanry will suffer through jealousy of this special corps of 5,000 men. Not only did a Departmental Committee report unanimously in favour of making the experiment, but at a meeting which I summoned, attended by thirty commanding officers of the Yeomanry, twenty-seven supported it. It should be also remembered that this is an insurance against large expenditure upon the Army. Every Regular soldier costs the country £50 a year. These men will cost only £9 a year. The proposal carries out what should be the policy of every Minister for War—namely, having the largest number of men in the Reserve and the smallest number of men with the Colours, consistent, of course, with every regiment being maintained in a proper condition. The country cannot afford to keep at full pay, standing as it were to arms, the whole of the forces required for the defence of the country; and by giving 5,000 men of the Yeomanry £5 each for agreeing to serve abroad in case of emergency, you avoid, for £25,000, an expenditure, which, in the case of Regular soldiers, would amount to £500,000 at the very leat. For that reason, and having regard to the service which the authorities hold that these troops did in South Africa, and their absolute eligibility for such services in case of emergency abroad, or in any other part of the world, I sincerely trust, in fact, I am certain, that this provision, if time be given to discuss it, will obtain the assent of this House. Remember that this question has been discussed with great exactness before, and carried, and a Vote has been given for it, and therefore we have already obtained the assent of Parliament.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): What does the right hon. Gentleman mean when he says that this proposal has been discussed, and a Vote given on it, with regard to the Yeomanry?

MR. BRODRICK: I mean that the proposal was put forward in the sense that a proposal was put into the Estimates, and specifically called attention to by the Minister, and a discussion was raised upon it. So far as I am aware no hostile objection was taken to it.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Will the right hon. Gentleman name the day on which he says that the question was discussed?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot give the day, but I certainly called attention to it. The right hon. Gentleman says that you ought not to move Militia from one regiment to another. Many of these men have served in territorial regiments, and some in regiments which were not territorial. The large number of men who are coming home far exceed those that are necessary for a Militia battalion of that calibre, and include some of those who have never served in the Militia. Of course the general principle of the territorial system will be kept up to the extremest limit possible.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): And how about the Yeomanry?

MR. BRODRICK: As regards the Yeomanry, power is taken to transfer where a reserve is possible, and we desire to keep the system on the most commonsense basis. Let me now explain the position. I trust, at all events, in regard to the Militia, we shall be allowed to consider the provisions of the Bill as non-controversial. As regards the Yeomanry part, if there was any general consensus of opinion among Yeomanry officers against it I would not press it for a moment; but the mass of Yeomanry officers strongly support it, and I still hope, therefore, that hon. Members will give this portion of the scheme that fair discussion which is still possible, and allow it to be inserted in the measure. I have referred to what are the strong grounds in our possession for originating the Yeomanry part of the Bill. It is, as I have said, not a new proposal, but merely the completion of a scheme for which Parliament has already voted money. It is urgent from the point of view of the military authorities, and, if put off, must seriously inconvenience the arrangements we are making to put the Army into a proper condition after the war.

*(4.35.) SIR CHARLES DILKE said he would not follow the right hon. Gentleman on the Militia part of the Bill. There were Members in the House who were fully competent to discuss it from the Militia point of view, though he himself was not able to do so. He frankly admitted that he was a revolutionist in regard to the infantry services of the country. He did not believe in the distinctions which were drawn in regard to these services, and therefore he put himself out of court for discussing from a technical point of view the Militia. The Yeomanry part of the Bill was a different matter, and it was impossible to discuss it as if it were one that could be decided by Yeomanry colonels. Their opinion on Yeomanry was of the utmost value, but it was not worth more than the opinion of any member of the Committee with regard what should be the mounted troops of this country for war abroad. Some of our Yeomanry officers who had done most distinguished service abroad were those who had served during the past two or three years in

South Africa. They had had more experience of cavalry and yeomanry than any troops in the world. They had become absolutely competent men to speak on the subject of mounted infantry; but the opinion of a Yeomanry colonel at home was only of the same value as that of any Member of the House on a matter of this kind. They must discuss the Yeomanry part of the Bill from a larger point of view. They could not form an opinion on it unless they had in their mind what the British Empire was, and what in case of war the Yeomanry would have to do. Applying himself only to the portion of the Bill affecting the mounted services of the country, he asked the House to have in view the wider considerations of which he had spoken. The right hon. Gentleman said that the House had already approved of his proposals. On every occasion when questions affecting the mounted infantry and cavalry had been under consideration in the House, there had been a great deal of objection taken to the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman, and as one who was present at the whole of these debates, he did not think they could be said to have been generally favoured by the House. The feeling of the House on those occasions was against the proposals which were shadowed forth. When the right hon. Gentleman put his six Army Corps scheme before the House, a great attack was made against making up any of the Regular Army in respect of cavalry and mounted infantry by the use of Yeomanry. At that time no statement was made by the right hon. Gentleman to lead the House to suppose but that the Yeomanry regiments selected for service in time of war would be there as they had served in time of peace. In the statement made the year before last, he did not think the right hon. Gentleman gave any hint to the House of the proposal ever to take out a portion of the Yeomanry and use them to make up the deficiencies of the Reserve or for the cavalry of the Regular Army.

MR. BRODRICK: I ought to have made it clear that the proposal now made would of course not be on the lines of the old Militia Reserve, who were a body of trained soldiers.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the proposal now was a new one. Last year the right hon. Gentleman threw out a hint that a certain number of men were to be taken for service abroad in time of war, and to receive pay for that purpose, but he did not then tell the House what was the scheme proposed. Now for the first time an explanation was given in regard to the men who were to serve in separate squadrons attached to the regiments which were to go abroad.

With regard to the 30,000 Yeomanry at home, that was an essential portion of the ideas of the right hon. Gentleman, who believed in a home army to resist invasion, and who contemplated the possibility of the defeat of our fleets at sea. It was impossible not to take these considerations into view in discussing this subject. Those who believed in naval defence as the only one that could be effective, rejected the home army part of the scheme, and believed that what was wanted was a striking army that could go abroad, and for that a high proportion of regular trained mounted troops was required. That they could not get without professional training; they could not get it from the Yeomanry trained as the Yeomanry would be trained. The differences between cavalry and regular mounted infantry had now become so distinct that the Powers were likely in the next few years to be going in a direction in which, with our South African experience, we ought to precede them—namely, of having both cavalry and regular permanent mounted infantry. The War Office were too much inclined to take a good class of recruit for the Yeomanry, and to take this as being the equivalent of cavalry. They had in recent times seen regiments take highly belligerent titles, such as the Rutlandshire Rough Riders, or words to that effect, and they were accepted by the War Office as being what they appeared to be at first sight. But they were not cavalry soldiers, and they could not be counted upon as persons who had received a cavalry or a mounted infantry training which would fit them at once to take their place in the ranks of the regiments into which they would be sent. But now, he believed, the Government had not finally made up their mind on the subject, and that was one reason why he thought the discussion that afternoon would be of value. He had seen hints given that it was possible the Government might have in view the creation of regular mounted infantry regiments. Of course there were a great many men serving in South Africa who had had such a training, and in that respect we stood in a position of superiority to the other Powers. But the Government would have to take a decision on this subject. The right hon. Gentleman had told the House that he shrank from the cost of extending this branch of the service; but the plea he offered to the House was that if the cost of the service had become too great, it was on the infantry, which they could improvise, rather than on the mounted infantry, that they should economise. The same argument had been used some years ago in regard to the artillery and the cavalry, which had been cut down and their horses reduced in number; and it was ultimately admitted that he and his friends were right and the Government wrong. The same thing was now going on in regard to the mounted infantry. They were going to try, for the sake of cheapness, to save on this branch of the service, although there was much ground for thinking that it was on it they must rely in an emergency. He should not be in order if he were to point out, on the Second Reading of this Bill, where a saving on the infantry might come in; but he did most earnestly plead with the Government and the House not to try to save money on the mounted branches of the service which could not be improvised in case of war. They all knew what occurred in South Africa. A portion of the mounted troops hurriedly raised were good, but the great bulk of them were not only useless, but were absolutely a danger; and it was not till they had been some time in the field that they were found to be of much service. The Government had too much in view, in regard to home defence as compared with naval defence, this 30,000 Yeomanry, as against this striking force of 5,000 men. The need of this country was to have a thoroughly prepared striking force. These troops, for which we paid so highly, ought to be of the best description; and Bills of this kind, which provided for masses of half-trained men as an imperfect makeshift, should not receive the sanction of this House. The Prime Minister had that day made a most important declaration as to what was occupying the mind of the Government at the present time in connection with national defence. The right hon. Gentleman had promised a complete statement at the beginning of next session; and the House would wait for that with great interest. He could not but think that it would be better for the Government to agree to drop the Yeomanry portion of the Bill, for if they passed that portion they should be shutting the door against those fresh proposals which the Prime Minister led them to hope for next session. He did not think it would be difficult to pass the Militia portion of the Bill. The Secretary for War had apparently forgotten what Napier had said of the Government of 1813, that they seemed to be unaware that we were surrounded by the sea. The Secretary for War had always in his mind that it was necessary to have a large land force in these islands because we might be invaded. Let the right hon. Gentleman get that out of his head. We should have a highly organised and concentrated force, but above all, we ought to be strong in cavalry, mounted infantry, and artillery.

Sir Charles Dilke.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said that he would heartily endorse all that had been said by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean. Having taken some part in the debate on the Army Reform Bill, of which this was really a part, he could say that his objection to that scheme was the want of appreciation of the conditions in which the Empire existed and of its military necessities. It would be quite improper for him to proceed on that line now, but he strongly objected to voting in any way for any part of a scheme which showed that the Government were carrying out a false policy which was not for the benefit of the country. He could not accept the plea of his right hon. friend the Secretary for War as to the urgency of this Bill. Twenty months ago the House passed a measure creating the Militia Reserve of 50,000 men, and now his right hon. friend came down and said—"If you don't pass this Bill, such and such terrible things will happen." If it was urgent now, it must have been urgent all through the session. The fact was that the War Office were blundering into a policy, and hence their claim for urgency for this Bill. He heartily supported the right hon. Member for Forest of Dean, who advocated the old policy—for which they had been fighting for twenty years—and that was the influence of the element of time, which had never been recognised by the War Office. Cavalry and artillery took longer to train than infantry, and, therefore, in the nature of the case, they must in peace maintain regular cavalry and artillery at a higher proportion, numerically, than the infantry. The Government had never really accepted common-sense principles in their organisation. They had created what was called Imperial Yeomanry —a force which was neither Yeomanry nor Imperial. The title was only adopted to catch the public imagination and would not stand examination, because any proper consideration of the Yeomanry meant that you do not want this 35,000 men at all. He altogether objected to the right hon. Gentleman saying—"5,000 men will only cost you £25,000 and look what a Regular soldier will cost you." It was not a just argument, and therefore in Committee he should move the deletion of sub-Section 3 of the Bill. He had it from his right hon. friend that from the beginning to the end the Militia Reserve system was a bad one, and now he says—"You can apply the same principle, which has been found in practice to be bad to the Yeomanry." But says the right hon. Gentleman, "There is a very great difference. The Militia Reserve man was a private soldier who went into the regular Army for military service abroad; the individual unit of the Imperial Yeomanry is not a private soldier, he is subject to a different law." He saw no difference between the two. His right hon. friend tried to harmonise his arguments by saying that the Imperial yeoman will go with his own officer. Why could not the militiaman do the same? If that was a practical argument for the one it was practical for the other. We ought to have some explanation of this. How was it going to be arranged that the yeoman shall go with his own officer? They had two yeomanry cavalry regiments. In one they had only ten men in the Yeomanry reserve, and in the other fifty men. How were they going to arrange for the ten men to go with their own officer? His right hon. friend had no doubt a very large scheme in his head, but he had not explained to them where the difference between the Yeomanry reserve and the old Militia reserve was. In Committee he would have to show them and give them definite proof that the principle was to be so different in its application to the Yeomanry reserve as compared with the Militia reserve to provide that the men shall always go with their own officers. He did not vote for the Adjournment of the debate, because he wished to hear what the Secretary for War was going to say, but had he known, as he now did, he certainly should have voted for it. With regard to the Militia part, he had not much to say except on the broad ground that it was carrying out a bad policy, but he objected to this provision in regard to the Imperial Yeomanry, because he thought it was throwing dust in the eyes of the people; because it would produce inferior cavalry units, and because this policy might be used by future Ministers to keep down the efficiency of the real Army.

(5.5.) MR. BECKETT said that after the statement of the right hon. Gentleman, the Bill seemed to have been divided into two parts. With regard to the Militia part of the Bill, for which both men and money had been voted, nothing could be said, but it was around sub-Section 3 that all the opposition concentrated, and considering that the Session was drawing to a close and there was not much time for the carrying through of this Bill, he would suggest to the Secretary of State that he should drop sub-Section 3 for the present, and be content with carrying the remainder of the Bill. If the right hon. Gentleman would adopt that course he would find no opposition to the measure.

MR. BRODRICK: I am most anxious to meet the wishes of the House in a question of this kind. But although I am aware of the strong opposition entertained by my hon. friend and others to this particular sub-Section, I believe that if the subject were debated in a full House the proposal would be strongly supported by military Members. I do not feel quite clear whether the occupants of the Front Opposition Bench would accept the other part of the Bill as of an uncontroversial character if I abandon for the time sub-Section 3. In the event of it being abandoned for the present it must be understood that I do not hold myself in any degree bound not to re-introduce it at the first opportunity. I believe that my hon. and gallant friend has misconceived what the effect of the sub-Section will be, but I realise that we are at a late period of the Session, and that strong objection has been taken to proceeding with the measure for that reason. If it is clearly understood that the first two sub-Sections are to be regarded as uncontroversial, namely, those which permit the Government to establish a Militia and Yeomanry reserve, and if it is made clear that men shall be allowed to remain on the books of the Yeomanry under the Militia Act, so that training may continue, I will try to meet the wishes of my hon. friends by dropping sub-Section 3. I should like, however, to have some assurance from the Front Bench opposite with regard to this.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.) said it was impossible to consider this Bill without, to some extent, looking at the whole scheme of Army reform of which this was a part. The reason for the opposition to it was that the majority of the Service Members of the House felt that the right hon. Gentleman would have had little necessity for this Bill if he had taken the opportunity when the country was ripe to make use of the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, and had placed himself in the position in which he might then have placed himself with reference to militia affairs. The proposal to transfer militia from one county to another altered the whole character of the force, both territorially and constitutionally. Of course, circumstances had altered in the last half century, and agricultural counties formerly able to produce large quantities of militiamen were not now in the same position, whilst other counties like Glamorgan were able, owing to the increase of population, to raise as many as six regiments; but the principle of transferring the men from one county to another would result in muddling up the Militia in a manner never before known. One of the six Army Corps was to be supplied with cavalry from scrap squadrons from different Yeomanry regiments, an unsatisfactory force for a general officer to rely upon. He ventured to point out that it would be impossible to secure a force of the right character. There was a great distinction between mounted infantry and cavalry, and no absolute lessons could be drawn from the experience of the South African War. Scrap cavalry of this description would go down like ninepins before trained Continental cavalry. No fewer than 35,000 Yeomanry were to be raised, in order to obtain 5,000 efficient cavalry, and the remainder of the force would be of no value whatever in the event of their having to operate at home. What was needed in this country was a mobile striking force, and this Bill was beginning at the wrong end. Instead of pressing this Bill now, at the close of the session, it would be far better if the Government would hold it over until next session, when they were developing their entire system of Army reform.

*Sir ARTHUR HAYTER: The right hon. Gentleman has made an appeal to me, and has, I think, made an extremely fair offer to this side of the House. I understand he proposed to drop sub-Section 3, Clause 1, for the present session only, if we withdraw the Amendment to read this Bill a second time this day three months. I may say on behalf of this side we will accept the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman, and leave this discussion to a later date, and though we may move small Amendments we shall move no obstructive Amendments.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*Colonel NOLAN (Galway, N.) desired to have some explanation of sub-Section 1. He quite understood that the War Office, or the Commander-in-Chief, might be able to transfer all the men of the Yeomanry, Volunteers, and Militia from one part to another, as it suited the Service, and that they were very impatient at the fancy some soldiers took for a particular regiment as against another. He understood that under this Bill a militiaman could be transferred from one Militia regiment to another, with one exception. An infantry man could not be transferred to an artillery regiment, and an artillery man could not be transferred to an infantry regiment. But a Militia Reserve man could be transferred from a Galway or Mayo regiment to an Antrim regiment or a Yorkshire regiment. Did that rule appertain to all militiamen or only the Militia Reserve men? Because he did not want west-country men who had joined the militia of their county to be transferred to a northern regiment, where there might be some objection to their religion. He knew some regiments which had a very great objection to Catholics and would not allow them to join. Then with regard to the convenience of the men themselves, there were many who would be likely to suffer from such a transfer. There were many objections to men being called out and transferred to other regiments in other parts. Irishmen rightly or wrongly liked to be with their own regiments in Ireland. This Bill seemed to him to take this power to transfer, and he would like some explanation upon that point. He also wished to know whether a man in the Galway or Mayo Militia could when he joined the Reserve be transferred to an English regiment at the will of the Secretary of State or the Commander-in-Chief.

*(5.30.) COLONEL WELBY (Taunton) pointed out that in the latter part of sub-Section 1 militiamen were mentioned, but not yeomen. Was it intended to enable a yeoman in the Reserve to be transferred from one arm of the Service to another? He did not say that the principle was a bad one, but if a yeoman could be transferred to the artillery, engineers, or the Army Medical Department, it ought to be clearly stated.

MR. BRODRICK said a yeoman could not be transferred to another arm, inasmuch as there was only one arm of the yeomanry.

*COLONEL WELBY had always understood the word "arm" to refer to a branch of the service. Technically it did so, whatever might be its meaning in Parliamentary language. As to the point raised by the hon. Baronet, he understood sub-Section 2 to refer to the raising of Militia. Technically the Militia could be raised by Ballot unless the Ballot Act was suspended by the House. He therefore asked whether this sub-Section would bring the Yeomanry under the provisions of the Ballot Act.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER thought the Bill afforded a good instance of the way in which the War Office always mixed up a lot of rubbish with a little good work. There were many things that might have been done with regard to the Yeomanry and the Militia, but this Bill simply tinkered with the question without affecting the important points. One of the chief reasons urged for the Bill was the scarcity of men in time of war. But did not that scarcity exist in time of peace? In some counties additional battalions of Militia could easily be raised, while the neighbouring counties were short of men, and if there had been inserted in the Bill a provision with regard to recruiting in other counties similar to that proposed in connection with the transfer of reserves, he believed many more recuits could be secured. There was one thing without which no Militia Bill was sound. Militia officers were almost unanimous in the opinion that it would not make the least difference in recruiting if the Militia were recruited to serve either at home or abroad in case of emergency. That would do away with the ridiculous and unsatisfactory farce of the so-called "volunteering" for foreign service. He was glad the proposal to take the Yeomanry for foreign service in sections was to be dropped. It was an impossible idea. If they were sent in companies, and under their own officers, a great deal might be done. By the amalgamation of corps it would be possible to arrange for the men to go out more or less with friends, and under officers whom they knew. If the same principle were applied with the Militia there would be no fear of the recruiting falling off, and the Bill would do more good. He agreed that it was a good thing to establish a Militia reserve, and he hoped it would fulfil all expectations. At present, however, the rush for the Army and Militia had fallen off, and, unless the men were made more comfortable, the required number of recruits would not be forthcoming. The question of having more mounted troops would have to be faced; and the Government would have seriously to consider the question of having regular corps of mounted infantry as well as our present cavalry. He was pleased that the Bill was going through without opposition, as the Militia reserve was an excellent thing, and everybody agreed that, if the Yeomanry were to be efficient, they would have to be under the same discipline and training as the Militia in days gone by.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) thought Irish Members were entitled to some explanation of how this Bill would affect Ireland. Important alterations were to be made with regard to the Militia and Yeomanry, which might seriously concern many poor men in that country. Some time ago a Bill was rushed through the House without discussion, with the result that men who had previously joined the Militia found themselves liable for service in South Africa. The first Clause of the present Bill might have a similar effect, inasmuch as the proposal to transfer militiamen from one corps to another might mean that Irishmen would suddenly be transferred, without their previous knowledge or consent, from an Irish to an English Militia regiment. He did not think that militia who joined at Roscommon should be liable to be transferred to some English regiment, such as the Yorkshire or the Lancashire regiments. On those grounds he thought they were entitled to some explanation from the noble Lord as to how this Bill would affect Irish regiments. They were prohibited in Ireland from having Volunteers, although some Yeomanry regiments were raised in Ireland during the recent war. A great many of the Yeomanry raised in Ireland had distinguished themselves in South Africa by the facility with which they surrendered to the Boers. If they were to have Yeomanry in Ireland, he wished to know whether they could be transferred to English and British regiments. The hon. Member for North Galway had asked for an explanation, and he hoped the noble Lord would give them some assurance on this point.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoutghton) said this Bill would not affect Irish reservists or Militia reservists any more than English. Men, at the completion of ten years, could go into the reserve of the battalion to which they belonged. There were also in the Army a lot of men who, when they left the Army, were lost to the military service. They were to be asked to go into the Militia reserve to serve as a reserve for the whole of the Militia. There was no *esprit de corps* concerned at all, and they would be allotted amongst the various Militia regiments as required.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tomorrow.

PATENT LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

FISHERIES (IRELAND) [EXPENSES].

Order for Committee thereupon read, and discharged.

MAIL SHIPS BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [1st December], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

(5.55.) MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said it was necessary for him to put before the House the nature of this measure. It was a simple and very useful Bill, and had reference to the bond of security which the owner of mail ships carrying mails between this country and a foreign State had to give in order that the ship might have the privileges of a mail ship, which privileges were very considerable in many ways. Under this Act the High Court had to be satisfied with regard to the sufficiency of the security, and if the High Court was not satisfied the security had to be provided in another way. Therefore this Bill made the law more effective by bringing the parties within the jurisdiction of the High Court, and in this respect the measure was an improvement. He wished to point out that the Bill contained a provision in regard to "change in the residence or place of business and service." The President of the Board of Trade would find that the whole of this had arisen from tautology in the present Act. They ought to have scored out the words "is from any cause insufficient." As for the Bill, as a whole, it always gave him pleasure, when he found that a Bill was right, to give every facility for it passing, and this was an illustration of the fact that they did not find a measure opposed if it was a really substantial one, as this Bill was.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tomorrow.

BANKERS (IRELAND) ACT REPEAL BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

FISHERIES (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Committee read and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

(5.55.) There being no further business which could, under the terms of the Order of the 16th October, be taken at the Afternoon Sitting, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair until the Evening Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

UGANDA RAILWAY [GRANT].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

*(9.0.) THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): In moving this Resolution in Committee, I beg first to call the attention of hon. Members to the memorandum on the subject which was presented two days ago, and which gives a very complete statement of the reasons why it is necessary for the Government to ask for more money. It begins with a short summary of the history of the railway, and it includes a memorandum by the managing member of the Uganda Railway Committee containing a comparative table shewing the original and the present Estimates, and an explanation of the reasons why the Estimate has had to be modified. That dispenses me from making any elaborate statement in detail, though I shall be quite willing and ready, so far as my powers allow, to answer any questions hon. Members may put to me on the subject. I may, however, make a few general remarks.

It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to remind the House of the past history of the Uganda Railway, or that our presence in East Africa was dictated by considerations of trade expansion, by our hope to fulfil the mission of civilisation which has so long been the function of the British Imperial authorities, and by the position this country occupies in Africa, which requires that we should take our share in the development of that country. I have used the word "development." Any sensible man who owns property thinks it his duty to develop it, and there is nothing more essential in the development of a property than the making of proper communications. It follows almost as a matter of course that if we are right to be in East Africa at all we should make a railway. I challenge contradiction of this statement, that if we were to be in East Africa at all, sooner or later, being established as the controlling authority over this vast tract, it was our duty and our interest also to make this railway. Hon. Members will remember that the vast majority of the House of Commons when the project was first proposed were in favour of making the railway forthwith, and that it was at once entered upon. Great difficulties almost immediately showed themselves. In the first place, it was impossible to get the requisite labour on the continent of Africa, and an army of 20,000 labourers and artisans had to be transported from India in order to make the railway. In the second place, 600 miles of railway had to be made. The line passed through most difficult country. In its course it reached a point over 8,000 feet above the sea, and in the middle there was a formidable drop of 1,500 feet, which had taxed the ingenuity of our engineers to the very highest point. I may mention, in order to show the kind of country that this railway had to traverse, that there are no less than seventy-five viaducts, as distinct from bridges, and the Committee cannot be surprised to learn, therefore, that in all the circumstances the railway has been an expensive one to build. Including the present grant, if the House is good enough to give it us, it will have cost, in order to complete it, £5,550,000, the demand I am now making on the Committee being for £600,000. I ought to say here that as against that sum there is an asset in the shape of stores which are valued at about £150,000.

What the Committee will require me to justify is my demand for an increased sum over the estimate made in the early part of 1900. The details of the reasons are to be found in the Parliamentary Paper I have laid on the Table, but generally speaking I may say that it is due partly to causes over which the Government have no control, and partly, I frankly admit, to mistakes which ought not to have occurred. The first cause was, I think, by far the largest. The line was begun in complete ignorance of the country through which it was to be made. There was not in 1900 even a complete or detailed survey with which to work out the quantities. Indeed, there was no material at that time with which to work them out. On the top of that came the great rise in the price of coal last year, which made an enormous difference in the cost. It was felt in almost all departments of the work. The coal rose in fact from 13s. to 27s., and freights from 22s. to 23s. Then there was the abnormally bad weather. For five months, to the end of September last, it rained continuously, and it began again at the latter end of October. We did not get fine weather until the 25th November. Thus the Committee will see the difficult conditions under which the latter part of the work was conducted. The circumstances were entirely beyond the control of those responsible for making the railway. It was not to be expected that the weather would be so bad as to make it impossible over large sections to do any work at all. All the time, the coolies brought from India had to be paid, and the additional expenditure consequent upon the bad weather is a very serious item indeed in the total cost. Then there is another item which must be taken into account, and of which the Government has no reason to be ashamed. So long as water could not be found in sufficient quantities, it, of course, had to be carried. The cost of carrying water was not a capital expenditure at all, but as water was discovered machinery had to be supplied, and the charge for that was thrown on capital expenditure. It is economy in the long run, but it makes it necessary to ask for a large sum. The Government were undoubtedly over-sanguine as to the time it would take to make the railway, and in generalising from the cost of the earlier portion of the railway to the cost of the whole, it turned out that the latter part of the railway further into the interior was more expensive to make, and that, of course, threw out the whole calculation, which was made on the average of the earlier months. Then, certain things were undoubtedly omitted which ought to have been included. Certain works at headquarters were not estimated for, for which the money has to be found now. These are, roughly speaking, the general heads under which the greater part of the excess has occurred.

The Committee will ask whether, in the judgment of the Foreign Office, there will be any more expenditure. I am not going to enter into any engagement which I cannot fulfil, and I do not desire to deceive the House. It is perfectly possible, these works being what they are, that certain extra expenditure may be thrown on the country at a future date. It may be possible, and I hope it will be, that sources of water will become available in much greater quantities than at present. Work will be required to make them useful, and this will involve extra capital expenditure. If there is a necessity for that, the money will have to be found in the ordinary Estimates to be laid before this House. It would, therefore, be rash to say that there is an absolute certainty that other capital expenditure will not be incurred. On the other hand, I ought to bring before the House and

Lord Cranborne.

the country what they have got for their money. They have in the first place got a good article—a first-rate railway. People may differ as to whether a railway ought to be made at all, but undoubtedly the money has been expended in producing a good article. That has been testified by several impartial observers. Sir G. Goldie, who enjoys a great reputation, visited the railway not long ago, and has stated that after seeing the line throughout practically its whole length, and visiting its fully-equipped workshops, stores, and other accessories, he has no hesitation in answering affirmatively the question whether there is intrinsic value in the railway in proportion to the capital expended upon it. Sir Harry Johnston, although perhaps not so absolutely an impartial authority as Sir George Goldie, also speaks in the highest terms of the railway. In expense of construction the railway compares favourably with the Cape Railway and that of Natal, the Uganda Railway having cost about £9,500 a mile, as compared with rather over £10,000 in the case of the Cape Railway, and £11,000 in that of Natal. The gauge of the Uganda Railway is, I admit, three feet three inches, as against three feet six inches in the case of the other South African railways, but the difference in gauge, I am told, makes very little difference in the cost.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea, District): What did you pay for the land?

*LORD CRANBORNE: I am informed that the land cost nothing in either case.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: £20,000 is put down for it now.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I am not going to make any promise as to the prospects of the line. Trade there is now in its infancy, but the country is a very fertile one, and capitalists in England are showing a willingness to venture considerable sums on concessions which we are granting for trade. But I may say that the opinions of Sir George Goldie and Sir Harry Johnston are again favourable, the former saying he has not a shadow of doubt that ultimately the line will prove a sound commercial speculation, and the latter predicting that in ten years' time the railway will be returning a handsome profit on working expenses, which may enable the Government to pay back to the nation the original cost of its construction. The value of the railway, moreover, is not to be calculated only by its promise of a direct return. There is a considerable indirect economy, because all that is required for the development of the country is now so much more cheaply introduced. The cost of carriage as between porter-borne and railway-borne stores may, for example, be compared. The cost of carriage by caravan was 7s. 6d. per ton per mile; by rail it was from 2¼d. to 2½d. The Committee will realise what an enormous difference that is. Applying that figure up to March 31st, 7,417 tons of Protectorate—that is Government—stores have been introduced at a cost of £57,000. Under the old system of carriage by porters, the cost would have been £552,000. The economy which will be caused by the railway is in fact almost incalculable. Without the railway, in fact, the development of our dominions there would have been impossible. With it everything was open to us. In the progress of administration and in the comfort of the people the railway will be an unexampled blessing. The journey from London to the capital of Uganda can now be made, according to Sir Harry Johnston, in twenty-four days, as compared with four months in former times, and the natives will be able to avail themselves of these great advantages when they go in quest of more profitable employment on the coast, or when they seek to sell their products. In fact, from the native point of view, the commercial advantage of the railway can not be over-estimated.

I think that the Government have done nothing but their duty in pushing forward this railway. I regret, of course, that it should have cost as much as it has done, but provided we have got a good article for our money, that we confer these great blessings on the native population, and at the same time promote our own trade, I do not think the Committee ought to grudge the sum I am now asking. The reason why I am asking leave to introduce a Bill for a loan is that this course has always been adopted in regard to sums asked for this railway. It is only just that this method should be pursued, because this is in the nature of capital expenditure. The benefit of the expenditure will accrue to future tax-payers, and therefore the cost ought to be thrown partly upon them. The same method has been adopted in respect of other public works, such as military and naval works, and a precedent is also, I believe, to be found for it in the specific cable expenditure which was defrayed in the same way. This money is to be borrowed from the National Debt Commissioners on the security of terminable annuities payable in thirty years in the ordinary way. I move the Resolution, and I have only to add that, if further information is desired, I shall be happy to answer questions.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of a further sum not exceeding £600,000 for the purposes of the Uganda Railway."—(*Lord Cranborne.*)

(9.30.) MR. BRYNMOR JONES said the noble Lord had made a very clear statement, but he should like to remind him of the debate that took place a few sessions ago. The noble Lord's speech to-night was directed rather to the principle of the undertaking than to the details which they on this side of the House ventured to criticise. He had talked of the development of our dominions. If we did undertake the protectorate of Uganda it could be well understood that we had also to undertake the making of railways and roads, and many other things which were necessary to the effective support of our Empire and of good government in that region. The hon. Member said, in 1900, that he was in favour of the making of this railway, because we were practically committed to that or the giving up of the protectorate. Let them take that as their postulate in argumentation. It appeared to him that the noble Lord had forgotten that the point they were making was that the Foreign Office, in becoming a kind of railway contractor, had been guilty of inefficiency, waste, and extravagance. That was the main burden of the opposition to the Bill of 1900. He did not know that it was expedient for him at present to enter upon the details of the mistakes of which the Government had been guilty in regard to the carrying out of this undertaking. He had, however, this complaint to make, and it might justify him for not talking at length at this stage of the Bill, that he had only had the "Memoranda relating to the Uganda Railway, 1902," for two or three hours in his hand. That Paper was not signed by anybody, and it was only by a process of inference that he could assume it was laid before the House by the noble Lord. It was not sent to his house this morning with the other Papers.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£600,000,' and insert '£500,000'."—(*Mr Brynmor Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That '£600,000' stand part of the Question."

*LORD CRANBORNE: If that is so I think the hon. Member has been very badly treated. It was in the Vote Office yesterday afternoon, and, of course, according to the ordinary practice it ought to have been circulated to hon. Members this morning. Perhaps the hon. Member will allow me to say this much. My right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury had originally arranged that this matter should be taken on Wednesday, and if that arrangement had been carried out the hon. Gentleman would have had more time to consider the memoranda, but, owing to the exigencies of business, the adjourned debate was put down for today. My right hon. friend, when he altered the arrangement, said he hoped that hon. Gentlemen would understand that he did so for the convenience of the House, and that they would not complain that they had lost the opportunity of considering the new business put down for today which they otherwise would have had.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that, as far as the personal position of the noble Lord was concerned, the explanation he had given was absolutely right, but at the same time, when they remembered that the Session commenced in January, there was good cause to complain of the delay in the presentation of Papers. The Foreign Office made a great mistake when, in 1895, they undertook to carry out this business. There was an experienced firm of contractors ready to carry out the work at the rate of £3,500 per mile and, as a matter of fact, it had cost the country £9,000 per mile. If the Foreign Office would take on its shoulders this work of railway construction as well as other things appertaining to that office, it must expect to be severely criticised for its inefficiency, waste, and extravagance. The Foreign Office appointed a Committee, and he had followed every step taken by the Committee in so far as appeared from the printed documents which had been laid before the House, but, of course, these formed only a very little part of what must be at the disposal of the noble Lord. Colonel Gracey was appointed to go out in an independent manner and examine into the state of things.

*LORD CRANBORNE: He is a member of the Committee.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES did not think Colonel Gracey was a member of the Committee. If he was a member of the Committee there had been no independent inspection at all. He understood that Colonel Gracey, who had had experience in India, was appointed as a kind of independent officer not concerned at all in regard to this matter. He was to go over what had already been done by the officers on the spot, and to test the accuracy of the estimates which had been already framed. Colonel Gracey went out, and in his report he made the most damaging criticism in regard to the work which had been done. He wished to call the noble Lord's attention to the question of inclined planes. The noble Lord had said that the railway was finished to Port Florence. As a matter of fact, he had reason to believe, for he had seen the figures, that the inclined planes were by no means finished. He was told by an hon. friend that the inclined planes were only temporary. This was not, perhaps, the occasion for going into engineering details, but he advised the noble Lord to give attention to the accounts for the construction of another African railway from Beira to Umtali, and he would find, under every head of expenditure, the construction had been more efficient and cheaper, and quite as good a line had been the result. But the House never seemed able to get to the end of expenditure on this Uganda Railway; every two years a fresh account was opened. The construction of this railway was not a work for the Foreign Office to undertake, and the result had been extravagance and waste of money. As a protest, he moved a reduction of the Vote by £1,000.

(9.38.) MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said it was unfortunate that a Department organised for negotiations and diplomatic business should embark upon the work of railway construction. He was not quite sure that they would be more successful in Uganda than they had been in Brussels. It was inconsiderate to keep back the information contained in the Papers until the day before debate; it was a growing practice which he hoped the noble Lord would endeavour to check so far as his Department was concerned. In the opinion of many hon. Members a sum of £600,000 was a fleabite, but he thought that it was a very large sum indeed. There was no notice in the Paper circulated this morning of the sum to be asked for. Until a few minutes ago the House had no notion of what the sum was to be. He did not think any private person would be content to be dealt with in that way. He regretted that they had not had a little more time to consider the proposal. He could not but remember Standing Order 62 of the House, which absolutely prescribed that when such a proposal was made the consideration of it should be postponed to a future day.

*LORD CRANBORNE: It is to go into Committee tomorrow.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he was perfectly well aware that what was now being done had been usual of late years, but if the noble Lord would refer to the old journals of the House he would find that when such a proposal was made it was postponed to a subsequent day appropriated for it under Standing Order 62. In this case a demand for £600,000 was flung at the House, and, then and there, it was asked to vote upon it. He thought that was a highly inconvenient method of procedure. In view of the large expenditure which had been incurred this £600,000 might be considered a very small matter, but it was a straw on the camel's back, and he must take some account of it. Moreover, this demand had to him a very serious aspect. This was the third time that the House had been asked for Supplies this year, and the present vote would necessitate the passing of another Appropriation Act. But it appeared to be easy for the Government to obtain money in these days. He pictured "youth at the prow and pleasure at the helm"—the Colonial Secretary in South Africa and the Prime Minister at the helm here. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer made no resistance. The predecessor of the right hon. Gentleman had the appearance of a mastiff sitting on the cash-box showing his teeth to everyone who came near. There was nothing of the mastiff about the present Chancellor of the Exchequer; there was more of the spaniel, he thought, for the right hon. Gentleman could not refuse anything, not even to the noble Lord and the Foreign Office, when accounts were presented such as no human being ever before looked at, and when reasons such as no human being ever before adduced were made in support of them. These accounts, if not so sad and pathetic, would be positively comic. When this matter was first raised they were told that the railway would cost £3,000,000, and would be one of the most valuable assets of the Empire. He predicted then that it would cost at least £6,000,000. It had already cost that amount, and the noble Lord with perfect frankness had told the House that it was possible that it might cost a great deal more. As to the future, the noble Lord could give them no information. He thought this a good article, as if it were a piece of haberdashery. The Public Accounts Committee had had trouble over the Uganda Railway accounts, but he was not going over the ground they had ploughed with so much assiduity and toil. The Paper which had been issued in regard to the Uganda Railway contained some remarkable statements. He should like to know whether the whole of it was by F. L. O'Callaghan, or whether it was partly by the noble Lord.

*LORD CRANBORNE: My hon. friend knows that all the Papers laid before the House are passed by the Foreign Office, which is responsible for them.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he had asked the information in regard to the authorship of the Paper in order that he might understand it a little better. The hon. Member called the attention of the House to the reasons set forth in the paragraphs (*a*) to (*e*) of the "Reasons for the figures in the Revised Estimate" on page 8 of the Paper. The noble Lord gave the House a fearful picture of five months' constant rain, and of everything and everybody being overwhelmed with water. It appeared, however, that if there was too much water at one time there was not enough at another. Why, having all this water, did they not keep some of it and use it? Was the rain in one part of the country and not another? ["Oh!" and laughter.] He really thought this was not a thing to jeer at. The Chief Engineer's estimate was prepared before the final survey and plans were completed, therefore the data he relied upon were imperfect. Of course, when the Chief Engineer knew that he had got perfect data, he could work out his calculations to perfection! Then the Report went on to say that the Chief Engineer—

> "took the cost of so much of the line as was then finished as a guide, and used the actual cost per mile of each main head of account . . . . . modifying the averages in some cases where his experience led him to believe the cost would differ materially from that in the past."

Now here was the comment on that statement—

> "Conditions being similar in all respects, this method gives fairly accurate results, but the actual condition proved not to be similar."

Then, it was admitted that the Chief Engineer had very imperfect knowledge of climatic conditions, which could only be determined after years of observation. The two years following the date of his estimate proved exceptionally wet. The gentleman never thought of these rains, or whether there would not be rain enough; and then to his surprise, during the year 1901, there was an unexpected loss of 100 working days. How were these working days lost? They were not thrown out of the calendar. The Report went on to say that—

> "For 1900 a table of lost working days does not exist, but as the line was blocked for three months the amount would not be less."

Why, they were not told. He would not go into this Memorandum further than that as to details. But, what did the Office say? 'This Office can only form a surmise" of the amount of the loss. That was the way the Foreign Office kept its accounts—by forming surmises! He was sorry to go into these matters, but he had to do so because they illustrated the frame of mind in which the Foreign Office went into the construction of railways. At the bottom of page 10 of the Memoranda there was a reference to rolling stock, which stated that—

> "In regard to the increase under this head, the figure of the original estimate was made in this office, and was less accurate than that made by the chief engineer."

Then came this remarkable paragraph—

> "The cost of repairs to rolling stock, due to accidental parting of trains, on the steep inclines, already incurred would have paid for a considerable portion of the cost of safety appliances."

He could not follow these accounts, because they were in such a fearful muddle; and when he came to the explanations of the Foreign Office, he was lost in much greater confusion than ever. Whether the chief engineer was still out there making his poetical estimates for the construction of the railway, he did not know, and the noble Lord apparently could not tell them. It seemed to him to be a very sad and melancholy thing that the House of Commons should be asked again this year for a large sum of money for this railway, and for the third time to make a new Budget. It was still more sad that they should have such imperfect accounts, and, sadder still, that they should have such absurd explanations of them. He could only express the hope that the Foreign Office would leave off making wars and railways, and set themselves to learn how to write a despatch.

*(10.5.) SIR CHARLES DILKE said that the House was not in a fit condition to discuss this Bill efficiently after the exhausting labours on the Education Bill. He asked, however, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should at this or some other stage of the Bill make a statement of the various loans which had been indulged in for works that used to be borne on the Budget. As the noble Lord had told the House, they now voted loans for Army works, Navy works, public buildings, the Pacific Cable—all these were new—now they had a loan for this Uganda railway. He was not at all opposed to the policy of these loans, provided full publicity was given to them in Parliament. They ought to have from the Chancellor of the Exchequer a statement of the amount of money they had to raise for these purposes. He shared the views of his hon. friend who had moved the reduction of the Vote that the Foreign Office was not a Department to carry on railway construction, or a war. Personally, he went much beyond his hon. friend. He had never been a partisan of the Uganda occupation. He did not believe that we had done any good to civilisation, or to the native population of that part of Africa, by going to Uganda. He knew that the extraordinary depopulation of the Unyiro Province was a disgrace to civilisation. If they could not make the West Indies pay, with all their advantages of soil and climate, he did not believe that they could ever make Uganda pay. He hoped, however, that this would be the last the House was to hear of the Uganda Railway.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) said that this was a business matter, and the House was forgetting that the Foreign Office were carrying on a trading concern. What he wanted to know was—Who was responsible for the gauge of the Uganda railway being different from that of the railways either in South or North Africa, because the idea was that at some future time all these railways would be connected up. Proper engineering opinion ought to have been asked before deciding on that question of gauge. He noticed that general charges, including administration, amounted to £283,431; but so much were the Foreign Office out of their Estimates for these general charges that they were now asking for £200,000 more. He did not see their friend the Crown Agent for the Colonies figuring in this matter. He should like to ask how much of that £200,000 was going to that old friend. The noble Lord had told them that he could not say what this railway was going to cost next year; but of the Gentlemen who called themselves by the extraordinary name of the

Managing Members of the Uganda Railway Committee, he would like to know how many of them had any experience of English or Colonial railways? The gentleman who prepared these Memoranda stated that the cost of rolling stock to September 1899 was £246,332, and that the cost of the locomotives and other rolling stock to be added would bring up the total to £455,707. There were thirty-six new American locomotives on order at a cost of £92,700, making an enormous total of 128 new engines in three years, together with several thousand trucks of different sorts, to run a train a day for 560 miles. Why, there was sufficient rolling stock to run ten trains a day each way, though there was no possibility of having traffic for such a service for years! No business man would approve of such a thing. The noble Lord in his Memoranda was not quite correct in saying that the traffic earnings (including Protectorate stores but excluding railway stores) came to £80,797. That was not traffic earnings, but traffic receipts. The gross working expenditure, including maintenance and carriage of railway stores, was £378,891, so that it cost £378,891 to earn a traffic of £80,797. He was not at all sure whether they had got the proper water out in Uganda for the boilers of the locomotives, and it might be cheaper to convert the line into a tramway and run it with horses. The noble Lord had told the House that certain concessions had been given. He supposed these concessions had been paid for in some way. Could the noble Lord put these concessions on the Table of the House so that hon. Members could see them before they voted this Bill? This was a most serious matter.

LORD CRANBORNE said that the concessions had nothing to do directly with the railway. He only mentioned the fact to illustrate his contention that there were a considerable number of persons who had confidence in the future of these territories.

MR. BAYLEY said he would like to know the terms and conditions of these concessions and what the Government were to have in return for them. It was important to know whether there were any Englishmen going out to Uganda as farmers and settlers. If the Government went on in the extravagant way they had done in buying engines and rolling stock for a railway which had no traffic in the sense that English or South African railways had, where there was a large population at both ends, his impression was that they would require more than a million of money to carry on this Uganda railway as a working concern.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland) said he did not see in the Memoranda any sum put down for the steamers on the Victoria Nyanza. How was the cost of these steamers to be provided? He wanted some information as to the surplus stores, which were estimated to be of the value of £160,000. Were they of a character to be used afterwards? In regard to the concessions, he wished to ask: Were they granted for lands in the British East African Protectorate, or in the Uganda Protectorate, or for both; and in what proportion were they distributed between Uganda and the British East African Protectorate? When he was at Nairobi at the beginning of the year there were great complaints about the site on which that town was built, and a report was current that it would be necessary to remove it from the plain, where drainage was impossible, to the adjacent hills. Was there any truth in this report, and was the expense of the removal included in the Vote which they were now discussing?

SIR EDWARD GREY said the story of this railway was a very old one, and he did not think that much that was new had been put before the Committee on this occasion. They had become used to these extensions of the cost, and, compared with previous demands the amount now asked for did not seem a very large one. It was quite hopeless to look at this matter as a commercial transaction. When once we had gone to Uganda the railway clearly had to be made, and we did not go there as a commercial speculation. He did not think any one could put his finger on the precise reason why we went to Uganda or the precise moment when we decided to do so. European countries having decided to embark on the development of the African continent, it was impossible for this country to stand aside; but to say that we went to Uganda as a commercial speculation was entirely an inaccurate account of the matter. He thought the noble Lord was a little sanguine in saying that the money spent on the railway was capital locked up which was going to be profitable in the future, but he thought it would be a long time before the railway paid its way. What they had to remember, he thought, was that a great deal of capital had been locked up in this undertaking, and that they had rather to make good what had been put in. They had got to develope the resources they had already got and not lock up more capital in Africa.

Attention called to the fact that there were not forty Members present; House counted, and forty Members being found present—

SIR EDWARD GREY said the other point he wished to refer to was the fact of the under-estimate of the work. He did think that was a serious thing. It was one of the most notable instances of under-estimating cost that had ever come before the Committee. It was a dangerous thing that the cost of works like these should be so much under-estimated, because, if the Committee got into the habit of treating with distrust the estimates put before them, they would become reluctant to vote money to embark on undertakings when the Government asked for it. The under-estimate in this case was so serious that it ought to be a warning to the Foreign Office, and any other Department undertaking such works, to do their utmost to prevent any such case of under-estimating coming before the House of Commons again. They were told that the weather was exceptional. So it was in every part of the world. But all such things would be allowed for by a contractor, and if he did not allow for them he would very soon become bankrupt. He trusted the noble Lord's statement was true, and that the railway would prove to be a good undertaking; but it certainly ought to be the object of the noble Lord to take the account he had had to give of the under-estimating as a warning. The moral to be drawn from it was that the way in which the Foreign Office had undertaken the making of this railway was not the right way. It was much better that railways should not be undertaken by Government Departments. They had much better be put in the hands of business men. There was no doubt now that the railway had to be made, and, having been made, had to be paid for. That being so, he hoped his hon. friend would not press his Motion to a division. He hoped, however, that steps would be taken to secure that the country was never again placed in the same position they had been placed in over and over again in regard to this matter.

(10.25.) MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said he was one of the small number of Members in the House who opposed going to Uganda, and who always criticised the extravagant way in which estimates were formed, expenditure incurred, and money wasted; and so long as he was a Member of the House he would never lose an opportunity of protesting against the original sin, whether of a Conservative or a Liberal Government, of going to a place like Uganda for the flimsy reasons alleged by both Parties whenever this subject was up for discussion. He should like to congratulate the right hon. Baronet who had just resumed his seat upon the chastened tone he had displayed, which contrasted very much with his previous utterances upon this subject. This was one of the worst of the crazy Imperial schemes into which this country had been misled during the last seven or eight years. The right hon. Baronet was perfectly right when he said that it would be very difficult for them to say that we went to Uganda for a commercial reason. If they did go there for a commercial reason, that object would never be justified. He had read nearly every book which had been published upon this subject, and he was convinced that if Africa was to be civilised and Imperialised, in the best sense of the word, it was worth doing for England's sake; and if civilisation was worth supporting and extending in Africa, he would rather that the honour should be Britain's than any other country. Of that he was convinced by a study of the subject following a year's experience in the Niger territory, and he also thought that under the guise of civilisation we should introduce habits and customs that would decimate the native population. This had been proved in the district to which the hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had referred. They would superimpose upon these people certain habits and customs that would more than counterbalance some of the supposed advantages of civilisation. They would seek to impose upon this subject people customs which were supposed to be in the interests of Imperialism and civilisation, but which were invariably in the interests of the military subjection of people who were better off without us than with us.

The right hon. Baronet had said that if we went to Uganda for commercial reasons they would not see their money back, and he also said that it would perhaps never be known why they went to Africa at all. He had read a well-informed article, which put the case in a nutshell as to why they went to Uganda, and the quotation he would now read was in his opinion the real reason—

> "Putting aside the practical and optimistic statements in Sir Harvey Johnston's Report, the truth appears to be that Uganda is held for political purposes because it commands the head waters of the Nile, ensures the safety of Egypt to the south, and on the northern side of the Victoria Nyanza will be the terminus of the Egyptian Railway."

That was the real reason why we went to Uganda. We went to Uganda for political reasons with the idea of commanding the head waters of the Nile, and to secure a link in the Cape to Cairo railway communication. For a political will-o'-the-wisp there had been all this waste of money and human life, and misuse of energy in accordance with the expansionist doctrines of the new diplomacy. Solomon said, many centuries ago, "The fool hath his eyes in the ends of the earth." That was why we were in Uganda. England had got great ambitions, and they knew that Uganda was a wealthy country, and so statesmen thought it was their mission to have their eyes in the ends of the earth and thus waste money and dissipate the strength of this country. He believed that this £6,000,000 which the Uganda railway had cost up to date, might have been better spent in developing their home markets or in developing their trade in India, and in every other part of the British dominions, rather than in this plague spot which Uganda happened to be. Having decided to go to Uganda, they ought to have done it in a much better way. As a mechanical engineer, and as one who was a pioneer in Africa for the Royal Niger Company and a servant of the Colonial Secretary, he felt positively ashamed of the incapacity shown in the construction of this railway. A properly trained civil engineer and practical contractors would have carried out plans for interchangeable links of line, but the Foreign Office had three converging links with dissimilar gauges, and had already doubled their estimate of three millions. The Foreign Office had responded to a wave of Jingoism that synchronised with a full treasury, and this was the result. They had employed military men for civil work, without training, without knowledge of the country, or of the language of the Indian coolies, whose lives had been sacrificed by thousands. The noble Lord would probably think he was over-stating his case, but he would quote upon this point from the report of Sir G. Molesworth. What did he think about the officers who constructed this railway? He said—

> "The officers are new to each other and to the country, and many of them are new to the language and character of the Indian coolie."

When they knew that the lives of thousands of these poor Indian coolies had been sacrificed, as the reports showed; when they remembered the way in which the cost had exceeded the original estimate, and when they saw the incompetency which had been displayed in the making of this railway, he thought they should at once insist that the Foreign Office should correct its habits and retrace its steps and get rid of this particular class of work altogether, if they were desirous of being known as practical business men. Now they had been told in a very optimistic way by Sir Henry Johnstone that this railway was likely to be profitable within ten years. A railway was not likely to be profitable when in 1902 the following report was made—

> "The loss of small materials, fish-bolts, nuts, and keys, has amounted to as much as 50 per cent., due to the natives stealing these small articles."

He noticed that on page 10 of the Paper relating to the Uganda Railway, the expenses of the staff quarters appeared. Although those officers employed in the construction of this railway did not know the language and the habits of the coolies, they appeared to have got a good idea of the comfort and luxury which was necessary for them. He noticed that for staff quarters to the end of September, 1899, the sum of £75,505 was required, while to the end of May, 1901, the total was £215,117. He thought the quarters for the officers were on such an extravagant scale as the conditions of life in that region did not warrant. With the refreshing candour which was typical of his distinguished father, the noble Lord had told them the short and simple annals of the poor Uganda Railway, but he must not imagine that he could explain away the incompetence which had been displayed on this matter by telling them that the weather was very bad. The difficulties upon which the noble Lord had dwelt, especially as regards the bad weather, were such as ought to have been foreseen, as they were the normal meteorological conditions in tropical Africa. He invited the noble Lord to consider seriously whether there ought not to be a change in policy with regard to the construction of this railway, or, if it were persisted in, whether he should not call to his assistance the most able and experienced men he could command. There was no information as to the necessity for voting more locomotives. Locomotives in Africa deteriorated more quickly than human beings, because bad water would very quickly eat the heart out of a locomotive, thus increasing greatly the cost of maintenance and repairs. If Parliament had made up its mind to spend £10,000,000 or £15,000,000 upon this railway, let them pursue the line of least resistance, reduce the expenditure to a minimum and employ the best men, machinery, and organisers. He hoped the Uganda railway would be an object-lesson to certain politicians, and he welcomed the period of disillusionment as to this project which had now set in. In conclusion, he wished to tell the noble Lord that there was other places in the British Empire upon which he could have spent this £6,000,000 to better advantage than in Uganda, where everything would be wasted, with no good results to British trade, and which might prove a curse to the very people in whose interest the money was supposed to have been spent.

*(10.45.) LORD CRANBORNE said the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had asked him whether they were determined that this railway was to be made. The railway was made, and therefore there could be no question about it. They were quite aware of the kind of difficulty to which the hon. Member for Battersea had called attention. They knew perfectly well that locomotives deteriorate with bad water, and that this constituted one of the great difficulties in railway enterprise, because they often met with water which was unusable for that purpose. Hon. Members opposite had spoken of the mistakes they had made. Of course they had made mistakes. Any contractor or Government or Government Department which undertook the making of railways in an unknown country was perfectly certain to make mistakes, and he felt sure that the House of Commons would be the last to judge the Government so harshly because mistakes had been made. He quite agreed with a very great deal that had been said, and although he did not agree with all the criticisms, he did most fully agree with the right hon. Gentleman opposite that this railway was never intended to be made, and had not been made, entirely for commercial reasons. Of course he hoped that there would be some commercial return. It might be that the hon. Member for Battersea knew more than Sir Harry Johnstone about this matter, and it was possible that the estimates for which he was responsible were too sanguine, but if that be so, all he could say was that he agreed with the right hon. Baronet on the Front Bench opposite that the railway in Uganda was not made for commercial reasons. The hon. Member said that if the railway had been built for benevolent reasons, he desired that Great Britain should be foremost in efforts of benevolence. But he failed to see the consistency of the hon. Gentleman. Did the hon. Member suppose that if we had not gone to East Africa

it would have been left alone—that the natives of the country would have continued in a state of Arcadian simplicity ? If the British Government had not gone, then some other European Government would have gone there, and he was certain that the natives would prefer to be under the British Government than under any other Government. He believed that would command the assent of every hon. Member.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: They would prefer their own government.

*__Lord CRANBORNE__ said that the hon. Gentleman was quite wrong. If he considered the condition of things which existed, he was confident that the hon. Member, who had a sympathetic mind, would not make such a statement. Before the white man went into those regions it was a history of lust, blood, robbery, and murder, and he did not agree with the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean that we had been a curse to the people. On the contrary, though the country had been costly to the Government, he believed that when the history of this great movement was written it would be conceded that we had brought, on the whole, nothing but the blessings of peace to the people. It was said by the right hon. Baronet that the experience of the Uganda Railway should be a warning not to underestimate an engineering enterprise. He had never heard of an engineering enterprise which had not been under-estimated ; it was almost the universal experience of private gentlemen, as it was of public Departments of Government. What was the position ? Estimates had to be made on the materials available, and he did not think that the House would like the system of an estimate to cover all possible contingencies. A very large sum of money would be asked for, and when the Bill came to be paid it would be found that the Government had asked too much. Besides, such a system would almost certainly lead to the extravagance which hon. Members wishe to avoid. The estimate must be made a accurately as it could be on the materia available ; there was no other means o doing it. No doubt they were makin two bites at the cherry, but no mor money would be spent than if the sun had been properly estimated at the beginning. Then, it was asked, why no make the railway by the assistance of contractor ? It was an old story, but th answer was that it was impossible. I was doubtful whether any contracto would have tendered for it.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES asked if i were not a fact that a contractor di tender, and offered a guarantee of million sterling.

*__Lord CRANBORNE__ said he was no aware of that.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES said it wa in the noble Lord's office.

*__Lord CRANBORNE__ said tha the subject was fully debated a year o two ago, and no hon. Member wa keener in explaining why contractor could not be employed than the hon. Gentleman himself. He would give th reason why a contractor could not hav been employed. The railway had to b made by coolie labour.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES said h denied that. The noble Lord, in th debate two years ago, referred to th Beira Railway, on which native labou was employed ; and there was not th slightest reason why a contractor shoul not have been entrusted with the Ugand Railway, and should not have employe native labour.

*__Lord CRANBORNE__ said he coul not agree. The Beira Railway was th worst constructed railway in Africa.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said he denied that.

*LORD CRANBORNE said he did not know under what conditions the Beira Railway was made, but it had to be renewed a few years afterwards. It was, however, impossible to make the Uganda Railway except by coolie labour, and the Government of India would not allow coolies to be enlisted for the work except by the British Government. Therefore, the Government had to make the railway; and that was his answer with reference to the contractor. As the hon. Gentleman the Member for King's Lynn was not present, he would not trouble the Committee with an answer to what the hon Gentleman had said. As to the gauge, he did not deny that he regretted the gauge was not 3ft. 6in., but there were good reasons at the time for having the metre gauge. It was not contemplated at the time that there would be a great development of railways in the future, and for many years to come the gauge was almost certain to be broken at the Great Lakes. As to the steamers, they were paid for out of the votes in Supply, and the money had been granted for them. They were in a forward condition; one was on the eve of being launched, and the framework of another had been set up. The criticism as to the sanitary condition of Nairobi was to a large extent well founded. A great deal of the township would have to be moved to higher ground, but that did not come under the Vote before the Committee. The size of the figures in the general charges had been remarked upon, but was explained by the over-sanguine estimate of the time it would take to make the railway; the longer the time, the larger the general charges. There were perhaps other reasons as well. The hon. Member for Chesterfield asked as to terms of the concessions in Uganda and East Africa. That was a very fair question, but hardly on the present occasion. He would, however, engage to consider how far the terms could be given; and, if the hon. Gentleman put a question on the Paper, he would be happy to answer it. As to the stores, he thought they consisted partly of construction stock and partly of rolling stock; but he would ascertain, and inform the hon. Gentleman at the next stage. He had answered all the questions which had been put, and he did not know whether hon. Gentlemen desired to continue the discussion.

MR. WILLIAM McARTHUR (Cornwall, St. Austell) said that the question before the Committee was one in which he had taken a great deal of interest, and on which he had always found himself in a difficulty as to the votes he had given from time to time. He joined in the criticisms of his hon. friends in regard to the details of the expenditure on the Uganda Railway; and would not enter further into that part of the question. He wished, however, to indicate the main point, which, he thought, was constantly missed by the Foreign Office and by many hon. Gentlemen. They could not occupy all the waste places of the earth, as they had been in the habit of doing for twelve or fifteen years, absolutely without regard to what was to follow after occupation. He had felt, ever since he entered the House, that the nation and the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office had not taken a business-like view of the engagements they had entered into. He had found himself at variance with certain of his hon. friends on account of the votes he had given, although they had been given by him on what appeared to him to be a most consistent principle, viz., that they could not go to a particular point on the earth and occupy it, and then conclude that they would only have to bear the expenses of occupation. When they did that, they found themselves on a long, long road, of which they could not possibly see the end. He thought the House was being steadily drawn into all sorts of enterprises, of the results of which it had no conception when they were entered upon. What he was contending for was that the lesson of the Uganda Railway should be taken to heart by the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the whole House of Commons, as being a typical example of the cases in which they had gone to particular parts of the earth thinking they could occupy them at little expense and trouble, and had found themselves committed to vast expenditure, for which they were altogether unprepared, as the natural consequence of their having gone there. They could not, having gone to East Africa, divest themselves of the responsibilities they had undertaken, not to foreign nations or Governments, but to the aboriginal inhabitants. What had happened in Uganda? They had ruined whatever native Government, bad though it was, which was there.

LORD CRANBORNE: A very good thing too.

MR. WILLIAM McARTHUR said he was not defending the native Government; but, such as it was, it was ruined. They produced chaos; and, therefore, the character of this nation being what it was they had to restore order and set up another form of government. He was not quarrelling with the noble Lord for having gone to Uganda; but what he was complaining of was that the House of Commons and the country went to Uganda without the slightest idea of what they were doing. He did not think the noble Lord would say that when they went to East Africa they understood that they would be committed to the Uganda railway, and to the civilisation of that huge tract of country. He wished to say that in explanation of the many votes he had given, because he did not think that any Government—Liberal or Conservative—was going to learn anything from the Uganda railway. All Governments would continue to make similar mistakes. His own course was to consistently support such Votes as that before the Committee once the House had made the initial mistake of going to the place at all. He hoped the Foreign Office and the House of Commons would consider that, if they touched those wild territories at all, they incurred duties and responsibilities to the native races which they could not divest themselves of. He trusted that in future the Government and the House of Commons would take into account the huge responsibilities they took upon themselves when they went with light hearts to such places, which looked so small on the surface of the earth, and regarding which they thought their duty was over when they were occupied. They had sufficient responsibilities all over the world to tax the power and strength of this country, and he hoped the example of this railway would be taken to heart. The Government ought to make quite sure that they had established good government in their own territory before there was any thought of further annexation or expansion in other directions. Before adopting such a policy they should make quite sure that they had done the best they possibly could for the welfare of the territory over which they had assumed responsibility.

*(11.10.) MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he was opposed to the policy of scuttling out of Uganda, a policy which was sometimes advocated. He believed that would be an absolute calamity. They were now in possession of Uganda, and if Great Britain had not been in possession, the Germans and Portuguese would have been there. It was therefore better for the people that Britishers should be there instead of Germans or Portuguese. Would the people of Uganda be better off if they were left to themselves? Hon. Members are no doubt aware that horrible acts of cruelty are perpetrated by the native chiefs upon the natives. It was a blessing for those natives that a Power like Great Britain was there to protect them. He would not go into the questions raised in the Report, because the noble Lord had admitted that mistakes had been made, and he supposed there always would be mistakes in the opening up of such a country as Uganda. What he had risen for was to say how much he objected to the adoption of a policy of scuttling out of Uganda. Being in Uganda they should now stop there, and do the best they could for that country. This railway was essential, but he was disappointed at the bad management in regard to its construction. The noble Lord had stated that no contractor would have undertaken the construction of this line, but an hon. Member had already told them that some substantial firms would have willingly taken the contract. He considered that there was something very wrong at the Foreign Office in regard to the construction of this railway, and the noble Lord should look into the matter in order to see if it was not being managed by a number of incompetent men. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Battersea had spoken about the nuts and bolts which were stolen by the natives. Of course, they expected a certain amount of that kind of thing, but the discipline must have been bad, or probably there was none, otherwise there would not be such an enormous loss. The noble Lord had stated that there had been some difficulty in getting out the quantities.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The survey was not completed at the time, and therefore it was not possible to get out quantities.

*MR. WEIR thought it was a very bad system that the Foreign Office should undertake the construction of the railway at all, and it would have been far better if a contractor had taken the work in hand Two years ago the noble Lord told them what a charming country Uganda was, and said it resembled Scotland with its mountains, its lochs, and its moors. They had just heard about the scarcity of water in Uganda, but he would remind the noble Lord that there was no scarcity of water in Scotland. He thought it would be a good thing if the noble Lord would go to Uganda, and then he would be able to tell the Committee whether it was really a country of the desirable character which he represented it to be two years ago.

His object in rising was to emphasise the fact that as they were now in possession of Uganda they should stop there, but they ought to be more careful in the expenditure of money. He hoped the noble Lord would be able to tell something about the progress of the railway northwards.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that he would not trouble the Committee with the details about engines, and whether they should have a contractor or not, or whether the right gauge had been adopted. Those details were a little wearying, and he was content to leave them altogether alone. He thought the Government had fared very badly in the criticisms which had been made. No doubt this railway was as well made as any such tremendous enterprise could have been done under the circumstances, and after all they must not forget that right hon. Gentlemen on the Front Opposition Bench were responsible for starting this railway. He thought it was time that some attempt should be made to grasp the great principles of this subject. He was glad to hear his hon. friend on the Front Opposition Bench remark that they would have to look at the principle of this matter very soon, and he invited the Government not to occupy other territories without having first had experience of Uganda. He asked the Government not to reply to their criticisms in such speeches as the noble Lord had made. The Government ought to grasp a little more boldly the great questions of policy which were involved, and they ought to know exactly what was going to happen. There had been a most beautiful book published by Sir Harry Johnston which was beautifully illustrated and which would put anybody in possession of as many facts as it was possible to get from any book on this subject. One part of the book was devoted to animal life and the other to the various tribes to be seen there. These might be interesting facts to those who kept the Zoological Gardens, but they wanted to get at something about the commerce of the country, in order that they might see what prospect there was for an investment. This question was treated in Sir Harry Johnston's book in a very short chapter, in which the writer was perfectly candid, and in which he gave a most admirable summing up of the whole situation. He said that so far as mineral resources were concerned they had not discovered any so far. Then he proceeded to treat other great articles of commerce. He mentioned coffee, and said that a few pounds had been discovered and there was a good climate for its production in Uganda. How anyone could think that they could produce coffee in competition with other parts of the world he could not understand. Sir Harry Johnston admitted that there were no passengers or goods to be carried, and was that the best thing the Government could tell the Committee as to the prospects of Uganda? Sir Harry Johnston's conclusion was that they must go on with this expenditure for about ten years, but he was not quite so much of a jingo in his talk as his hon. friend who had just sat down. He admitted that they must stay for ten years and then he said their expenditure would have been something about £11,500,000 expended upon the Protectorate altogether. What were they to get back? They were now asked to grant a further sum of £600,000, and it had been admitted that they would not get back a penny. Sir Harry Johnston had urged them to try and tempt a few colonists out there, and then he said this money should be capitalised, and the Colony should begin to pay interest upon it. It would be impossible to get any colonists to go out there upon such terms, and the whole burden of this expenditure would be a dead weight upon the Colony. It was quite time the Government took this matter seriously in hand. There was one figure which went right to the heart of the question. They had now spent £7,000,000 upon the Uganda railway.

LORD CRANBORNE: No, it is only £5,500,000 altogether.

MR. LOUGH said it would possibly be £7,000,000 before they had finished. They had now spent £6,000,000, and they were getting no revenue from it. Sir Harry Johnston admitted that there was no revenue to be obtained from Uganda. In sixty years of railway development in Ireland, the House of Commons had spent £3,000,000.

LORD CRANBORNE: What Sir Harry Johnston says is that we shall begin to get our money back at the end of ten years.

MR. LOUGH said they had spent already in Uganda on railways twice as much as they had spent in Ireland, although in Ireland they had been reaping a revenue all the time. They were now spending £380,000 a year in Uganda, and the total amount that was coming for traffic, including all the Protectorate charges, was only £80,000, so that was a loss of £300,000 a year on the railway. If they were to stop in Uganda, he thought they should manage their business more economically. Last year the gross expenditure was £366,000, and this year it was £380,000. The amount granted in Ireland was £130,000 a year, so that in Uganda the sum was three times as much, although no taxation was collected at all in Uganda. He asked the Government to submit some bold policy to the House on Thursday next, because a loss of £300,000 a year was no joke. They were annually losing money in these unfortunate railway enterprises, from which he could see no good result at all likely to come. They should never mind morals and lessons, but they ought to be practical and make some sane proposal to the House. The prospects were bad this year, and the last year for which the figures were given was worse than the year before. The traffic was not extended in proportion to the number of miles of the line which had been completed, and although the capital expenditure was increasing, and also the annual expenditure, yet the traffic was diminishing. He appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the noble Lord to think over whether they could not hold out some word of hope to the poor taxpayers of this country. [Mr. RITCHIE dissented.] It was a common thing for right hon. Gentlemen to meet these arguments with a shake of the head, but he sincerely trusted that this expenditure in Uganda would rapidly diminish and that before long they would see some good result from what they had been doing there.

(11.30.) The Committee divided:—Ayes, 91; Noes, 14. (Division List No. 622.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V.C.W (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, RtHn J. A (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S.W
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, RtHn Lord G. (Mid'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, Heywood
Kemp, George
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, RtHn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter Salisbury
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Ritchie, Rt. Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES

Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cremer, William Randal
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
M'Kenna, Reginald
Rigg, Richard
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Brynmor Jones and Mr. Thomas Bayley.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of a further sum not exceeding £600,000, for the purposes of the Uganda Railway."

Mr. Lough.

Resolution to be reported upon Thursday.

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Twelve o'clock

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 10th December, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for amendment of: of Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster and persons signing (8), read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY.

Scheme dealing with the entry of Naval and Marine Officers and of men of the Royal Navy.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PATENT LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Read 2^a (according to order); Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

House again in Committee (according to order).

Clause 7:—

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said there were two Amendments to the first part of Clause 7 which very much resembled each other—the one he had placed on the Paper, and the other standing in the name of the Bishop of Winchester. He would have been glad to have withdrawn his Amendment in favour of that standing in the name of his right rev. brother, but he thought the latter was a little vague, and did not quite carry out the purpose of his Amendment. He had not the slightest desire to interfere with any direction given by the local authority to the managers of schools respecting secular instruction, except in one particular, namely, to provide that they might give such instruction about the filling up of the time table as might make it necessary to have religious instruction either an hour before school or an hour after. If such a thing were done it would be necessary, supposing that the Bishop of Winchester's Amendment were carried, to ask the question whether they were required to give religious instruction in the hour before or in the hour after school, and whether that would give "reasonable facilities" for religious instruction? To get that question answered they would have to go to the Board of Education, and he was by no means certain that they would get from that body any permanent answer, because they all knew that from time to time the paramount authority at the Board of Education changed. He imagined that if a certain party were paramount, the answer would be that to require them to give religious instruction out of school hours was not to afford reasonable facilities, but he expected the opposite party might just as likely say that it was affording reasonable facilities. He wanted to make the latter answer impossible, as it would be if the House accepted his Amendment. He had once tried the effect of giving religious instruction before and also after school hours. He tried it when he was Bishop of Melbourne, but it failed, as it was bound to fail. How could they expect that children would get up an hour before school time to attend a religious lesson, or how could they expect them when they were weary of the day's work to continue an extra hour after school? He might be told that this could be made compulsory. Yes, but complaint would be made that the strength of the child was being overtaxed and injured. That complaint would be a reasonable one, and if it were insisted upon that the children should attend, the parents could get over the difficulty by pleading the Conscience Clause and withdrawing the children from religious instruction. That was what they would do, and unless they made a regulation that religious instruction should be given during school hours, he himself thought that religious instruction would become a delusion and a snare. If they could not secure the giving of religious instruction in school hours, they would very speedily make an end altogether of religious instruction. He did not believe that it was the intention to make religious instruction a farce or impossible. Therefore he trusted that his Amendment might receive favourable consideration.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 43, after 'grounds' to insert 'but so far as such directions have reference to the time table of a school in which religious instruction is given they shall provide that a reasonable time be secured during school hours for religious instruction.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

*EARL STANHOPE supported the Amendment and expressed the hope that His Majesty's Government would accept it. It was not the desire of his right rev. friend nor of any of the supporters of the Bill to limit secular education, but it was obvious that religious instruction might be crowded out unless a definite time was given for it during school hours.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH hoped the Government would not accept the Bishop of Manchester's Amendment, which went a considerable way beyond the Amendment standing in the name of the Bishop of Winchester. The Bishop of Manchester complained that as the Bill now stood children might not get religious instruction at all.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER: Not in school hours.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH said arrangements could be made, and should be made, for religious instruction to be given, where so desired, out of school hours. The children attending rural schools came, many of them, from a long distance. Therefore it was only reasonable that they should not be deprived of any part of the time now allotted to secular education. The Bishop of Manchester had referred to the Conscience Clause. Some of these children came as many as three, four and five miles to attend school. Were they, while this religious instruction was going on, to be taken out of the school? If so, where were they to go? In his opinion the Amendment would not tend to solve the religious difficulty. In Church schools they would get this instruction under their trust deeds. He did not know why they should compel all the voluntary schools to adopt the principles of the Church schools. There were a great number of voluntary schools where the religious instruction was strictly undenominational. If some Clause of this kind were inserted he feared they would have a good deal of friction. He did not speak now in the interests of party but in the interests of religious peace. He hoped the noble Duke would not accept the Amendment, for it would not assist the cause of education.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said the noble Earl who had just spoken had a little misapprehended the difference, if any, between his intention in putting down the Amendment which stood in his name and the intention of his right rev. brother of Manchester. Personally, he did not care much whether one Amendment or the other was accepted, but he thought it was most important that religious teaching should be given during school hours. The noble Earl seemed to suppose that at present religious teaching was given outside school hours. That was not so, and all that the Amendment proposed was to retain it in its present position. Religious teaching could only be given at the beginning or at the end of school teaching, and all that the Amendment suggested was that the teaching should be given during school hours and not outside, and that the regulation of the education authority should not be such as to render that teaching impossible.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH hoped the noble Duke would make quite clear in his reply whether, if this Amendment were carried, it would override the general principle of the Act of 1870, regulating the time at which religious instruction should be given.

*EARL SPENCER: If it is laid down that religious instruction should only be given at the beginning or end of the school hours, that may obviate some of the objections which I feel to the Amendment now before the House. I certainly should prefer the Amendment of the Bishop of Winchester to that proposed by the Bishop of Manchester, because I think it is more consistent with the present law. If, as he says, and I have no doubt it is the case, that religious instruction must be given at the beginning or the end, I should be prepared to agree to his Amendment. But the Bishop of Manchester's Amendment is much wider, and, under his proposal, time might be taken right in the middle of school hours for religious instruction.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: There is not, I conceive, either in the Bill or in these Amendments, anything which in any degree overrides the provision of the Act of 1870, regulating the times at which religious instruction should be given. It certainly was not the intention when Government promoted this Bill, that the hours of religious instruction should be relegated to a time outside the school hours. In case there should be any doubt upon the subject, the Government are perfectly willing to accept the Bishop of Winchester's Amendment, amended as follows—

> "But no direction given under this provision shall be such as to interfere with reasonable facilities for religious instruction during school hours."

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER withdrew his Amendment in favour of that which the Government were willing to accept.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said he would be very glad to move his Amendment in the terms proposed by the noble Duke.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 4, line 4, after 'managers,' to insert 'but no direction given under this provision shall be such as to interfere with reasonable facilities for religious instruction during school hours.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD DAVEY moved with regard to sub-Section (*d*), which provides that the managers of the school shall provide the schoolhouse free of charge, to leave out "except for the teacher's dwelling house." He moved the Amendment with some misgiving, but as it seemed to be the general opinion of the House that noble Lords should move such Amendments as they thought fit in the Bill, without regard to the question whether they might not directly or indirectly touch matters outside the control of their Lordships, he was emboldened to lay his Amendment before the House, and he hoped the Government might see their way to accept it. Perhaps their Lordships would allow him to refer to the mode in which the provision excluding the teacher's residence from the school buildings which were to be at the disposal of the public education authority got into the Bill. It was not in the original Bill. On the contrary, the original Bill provided in the clearest terms that the teacher's residence, if any, should be at the disposal of the public education authority. By the term "school house" in the Act of 1870, the master's residence, if any, was included, and this Bill enacted in one of the later sections that the words in the Bill should have the same meaning as they had in the Act of 1870. Therefore, when the Bill spoke of the school house in the sub-Section on which they were now engaged, it clearly included the master's residence as well as the rooms actually used for the purpose of teaching. In Committee in another place, Sir William Anson, who was then, he thought, already Secretary of the Board of Education, proposed an alteration in the Clause including the words as they now stood. In fact, he proposed the Clause in its present form. In doing so, he stated that it was for the purpose of removing an ambiguity, and he invited the House to consider it more as a verbal Amendment than anything else. He (Lord Davey) took the liberty of saying there was no ambiguity whatever in the Bill as it then stood, and that the Amendment which was made at the instance of the Government was an Amendment of substance and one of considerable importance. He could not suppose that the skilful and able draughtsmen who assisted the Government in the preparation of their Bills could possibly have been mistaken or not have known the meaning of the words they used in drawing the Bill, nor could he suppose that the very able and well-instructed gentleman who assisted the Government at the Board of Education did not know the meaning of the words in the Acts with which they were so familiar. Therefore, he must assume that the original design when the Bill was placed before Parliament was that the master's residence should go with the rest of the school buildings, and be at the disposal of the local education authority. He objected to this Amendment on several grounds, but his chief ground was that it would be calculated to lead to confusion and great inconvenience, and it was wholly at variance with the scheme and inconsistent with the other provisions of the Bill. Their Lordships were aware that the master's residence was frequently actually part of the same building as the rooms in which the teaching was conducted. The master's residence and the schoolrooms formed together one building or one house, and were indistinguishable. He believed that in the schools which had recently been erected under the supervision of the Educational Department the master's residence was in a separate building. But in the older schools almost invariably it was part of the same building. He thought it must have been the intention of the Government, when this Bill was submitted, that the whole building should be at the disposal of the local education authority, and to distinguish between one part of the building and another and put two parts of the same building on different footings seemed to him calculated to lead to confusion. He had said that the exclusion of the master's residence was contrary to the theory of the Bill. What was the scheme of this Bill as regarded non-provided schools? Undoubtedly that the non-provided schools should remain the property of the trustees, or managers, or private owners in whom they were at present vested. The Bishop of Manchester had said the previous day that they were leasing their schools at a peppercorn rent. That was not what they were doing. Neither the property, nor the possession, nor the occupation of the school was in any way altered; in other words, the school remained the school of the trustees, managers, or private owners. It was true they had to obey the directions of the Department who provided the funds out of which the school was maintained, but the school remained theirs, and they appointed the master. The schools were generally held in trust, the essential part of which was that they should be used as public elementary schools in which religious instruction should be given in accordance with the principles of the Church of England, and the whole of the school buildings were held under that trust. The master's residence was held in trust to be used as a residence for the teacher in that school, and the trustees were not at liberty to alter the trust. Of course, Parliament might sanction anything, but they were not at liberty, apart from the sanction of Parliament, to use the building which was held in trust to be used as a master's residence for any other purpose. He was indeed surprised to read, in the course of the debates in another place, that the Attorney General had expressed the opinion that the trustees might let the master's residence and use the rent they received for another purpose. He did not think that was an opinion which the Attorney General, acting officially, would be prepared to support. It was, in his opinion, beyond question that they could not use the master's residence, apart from Parliamentary sanction, for any purpose other than that of their master's residence. The master was the master of the managers and the trustees; he was not the master of the local authority. The managers and trustees appointed him and dismissed him, and he conducted the teaching in the school which they maintained under the trust deed. If at any time it were necessary for the master to sue for his salary, he would, of course, sue the managers who appointed him and not the local authority, although the local authority furnished the managers with the funds out of which they paid his salary. Therefore, if the master's residence was retained as a residence for the master, it was but a fulfilment of and in accordance with the trust upon which they held their school buildings. It was in effect and in truth an endowment held for that purpose. An endowment of Consols producing £20 a year in aid of the master's salary could under the Clause relating to endowments go to the local authority in aid of their sources of income. Why, when the endowment was in the form of a house applicable solely for use as a master's residence, should not the benefit equally go to the local authority? Why should they be charged a rent for it? To his mind this was contrary to the theory and to the scope of the Bill. He would have been very glad if the school buildings had been transferred to the local authority as the right rev. Prelate suggested they had been. In his opinion that would get rid of a great many of the difficulties they were now faced with in the Bill. If the Bill had been constructed on the principle of the school during school hours being transferred, or, during a stated time in the day, being leased to the local authority, reserving to the managers the use of the school during the rest of the day, he thought they would have got rid of a great many of the difficulties which arose in the Bill. But that was not the scheme of the Bill. The scheme of the Bill was that the school buildings remained the property of the trustees or managers, and the latter continued to hold them and to use them exclusively upon the trusts ordained by the trust deeds. He hoped the Government would consider the point he had raised.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 15, to leave out 'except for the teacher's dwelling-house.'"—(*Lord Davey.*)

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND said there was one remark in the speech of the noble and learned Lord who had just spoken on which he would like to have the opinion of His Majesty's Government. The noble Lord said, as he understood, that the schools were not let at a peppercorn rent. The schools were so let now, and under the Bill it was to be enacted that the managers of the school should provide the school house free of any charge. Did that mean that the peppercorn rent ceased?

LORD DAVEY said he was dealing only with schools which were held in trust and not leased or let in any way—schools held upon a trust which provided that the buildings were to be used for the purpose of public elementary schools in which religion should be taught in accordance with the doctrine of the Church of England. But there was another class of school, viz., schools provided by landowners for the inhabitants of the parishes in which their property was situated. Those schools were usually in private ownership, and not subject to any trust, and the private owner was at liberty to do what he liked with his school.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND pointed out that if a building were occupied for twelve years without rent being paid, the ownership, according to the existing law, lapsed. Was it, then, a fact that if the managers were to pay no rent for these schoolhouses the schoolhouses would cease to belong to the landlord at the end of twelve years and would become the property of the managers or the local authority?

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON said it might seem rather hard upon a poor locality that a rich man should have demanded rent for a school, but it was a wise course in view of the Statute of Limitations. Moreover, the landlord in such cases often increased his subscription by the amount of this rent. He had asked a number of private owners if they understood what would be their position under the Bill, and they said that they did not. Some persons, he remarked, were not particularly anxious to sign the trust deeds which were being prepared for them, and would prefer to take some steps by which they would not lose their control over the schools which they at present possessed. Such schools were often situated in very poor localities. The matter was, therefore, an important one, and he thought a clear explanation ought to be made by the Government.

*EARL SPENCER: I rise on a point of order. I do not for a moment doubt the importance of the matter which the noble Marquess and the noble Duke opposite have referred to, but I venture to think it raises a very much wider question than the question which is actually before the House, and which is merely an Amendment with regard to school teachers' houses. I appeal to the noble Earl in the Chair to say whether it would not be better to discuss the subject of the trust deeds at a later time. I entirely agree with the arguments of my noble and learned friend behind me. The teacher's house, in many cases, is attached to the school building, and, in my opinion, it ought to be included in the question of the transfer of the school house, and not made a separate charge on the funds of the local authority.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): As your Lordships are aware, I have no power to give any ruling; but as the noble Earl has appealed to me for my opinion, I may say that it seems to me the question raised by the Duke of Northumberland and the Marquess of Northampton is beyond the limits of the Amendment now before the House.

' LORD HERRIES said that as far as he could see, the Amendment would be an absolute confiscation of the rights of proprietors. He happened to have two schools, each the only school in the parish. In one case the master's house was attached to the school. Was he to be told that because the house in which one of the masters resided was attached to the school the local authority were to have power over that house without paying any rent? He gave the house as part of the salary of the teacher, and he was now told that because that house was attached to the school it was to become the property of the local authority. He trusted that the Amendment would be rejected.

LORD DAVEY said the noble Lord was mistaken. He expressly stated that the property remained exactly where it was. The only question raised by the Amendment was whether the local authority ought to pay rent for the use by the master of the non-provided school of the residence set apart for him. He had omitted to mention the case where the school and the master's residence were in private ownership. Where there was a residence attached to the schoolrooms he thought it not unfair, as a condition of providing for the maintenance of the school, that the master should have the use of the residence; but, of course, where the school was in private ownership the owner of the school was in a position to make his own bargain.

THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM said the school house was entirely independent and separate in many cases. Therefore, he quite agreed that this exception should be taken.

LORD BURGHCLERE wished to say a few words on behalf of the already overburdened ratepayer in this connection. It seemed that if the Clause as in the Bill came into being they would either have to increase the cost of the schoolmaster to the local authority or to diminish his salary. He would put a concrete case. At the present moment a schoolmaster was paid, say, £100 a year, and had a dwelling house to live in. By this Bill the local authority would have to pay out of the rates rent for the house, say, £20 a year. Therefore, in future, the cost of the schoolmaster to the rates would be £120 a year, or his income would have to be reduced to £80.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said the result of the Amendment would be to ask the owners to make a present of £20 a year in respect of the teacher's house to the local authority.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: There can be no doubt that the questions raised by the noble Duke behind me and the noble Marquess opposite are not strictly connected with the Amendment before the House. They have raised a question which may be of very considerable importance; but I think that those who have charge of the Bill have some reason to complain if questions of this importance, difficulty, and intricacy are not raised in the shape of concrete Amendments. I shall devote my observations entirely to the Amendment now before the House. The noble and learned Lord entered into an argument on trust deeds which, I am sorry to say, I did not distinctly follow, owing to the difficulty of hearing. But I conceive it is quite possible that there might be trust deeds under which it would be impossible for the managers to demand rent for the dwelling house. The Clause, as I read it, does not enable the managers to make any charge for the teacher's dwelling-house under circumstances in which the trust deed renders such a charge illegal. What the Clause does say is that they shall provide the schoolhouse, free of any charge, in the building in which the school is held. They are not bound, where a house does not exist, to make any provision for a teacher's residence. I think I agree with the statement of the case put by Lord Burghclere. The provision of a dwelling-house is a part of the teacher's salary, which, under the Bill, the local authority has to provide. If the managers provide the teacher with a house, then the local authority has to pay the teacher a smaller salary ; if the house is not provided, they will have to pay a larger salary. I do not know why the charge imposed on the local authority is to vary according to whether a dwelling-house is, or is not, connected with the school. The whole charge for the teacher's salary under the Bill falls on the local authority and the charge for the rent of a house must enter into the consideration of that charge. The Bill enables the managers, if they have a dwelling house under their control, to ask a rent for it, but, of course, I assume they would not be able to exact that rent if there are any provisions in the trust deed under which the house is held which would make the exaction of such a rent illegal.

*EARL SPENCER : Will the noble Duke put in words to express quite clearly the admission he has just made that in some cases the house cannot be charged for ?

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND ventured to hope the noble Duke would not give any hasty promise in answer to the noble Earl. Time should be taken to consider this delicate and difficult point.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND moved to provide that the managers should receive rent from the local authority for the school furniture. He was afraid that if the Clause stood as at present they would have a divided ownership of the furniture, which would be inconvenient, because the managers had paid for the furniture and owned it, but the local authority would have to keep it up. He happened to be manager of a school, and as soon as the Bill passed he intended to advise his brother managers to sell the school furniture, by which means they would get a nice little sum of money for the benefit of the school, and they would sell it to some person who would undertake to let it again to them for eighteen months or two years till the Bill came into full operation. Then the local authority would come into possession minus any furniture at all, which would have to be supplied out of the rates. Although that was a very good position for the manager of a school to take up, because he had first of all to consider the interests of the school, he (the noble Duke) did not think it was a proper state of affairs so far as the ratepayers were concerned. It seemed to him that it would be much easier if the furniture were left in the hands of the managers. If the Government would consent to this Amendment, all that would be needed would be a consequential Amendment in the Schedule, and the situation would then be made very much easier.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 16, after 'any' to insert 'and for the school furniture.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE : The noble Duke, as I understand, suggests that the furniture is to remain the property of the managers, who may charge a rent for it. That seems to me to be an extremely inconvenient arrangement. If it is not desired that the furniture, as the Bill proposes in the Schedule, should be handed over to the local authority, it seems to me much better that the local authority should be empowered to take over the furniture at a valuation. I think it would be extremely inconvenient that the local authority should be required to pay rent for the furniture.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND asked the noble Duke whether he would accept words that would imply that the local authority was in future to take over the furniture at a valuation. His object was to make the ownership of the furniture perfectly clear.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said the adoption of the Amendment would lead to perpetual friction between the managers and the local authority.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND asked the noble Marquess whether he was to take it that, in his opinion, joint ownership caused less friction than single ownership.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, in order to raise the point to which he had already called the attention of the

House, moved the omission of the words "out of funds provided by them" from the sub-Section, which enacted that the managers of the school should provide the schoolhouse free of any charge except for the teacher's dwelling-house, if any, to the local education authority, for use as a public elementary school, and should, "out of funds provided by them," keep the schoolhouse in good repair, and make such alterations and improvements in the buildings as might be reasonably required by the local education authority. He wanted to know out of what funds, if any, the rent was to be paid for the school, and who was to pay it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 17, after 'shall,' to omit the words 'out of funds provided by them.' "—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: No rent will be paid for the school.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: Then if no rent is to be paid for my school, which I have allowed the local authority to use, will that school at the end of twelve years be mine or the local authority's?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: If the noble Duke is entitled to any rent that is a question between him and the managers of the school. The managers must provide the rent which they have to pay to him. The rent is not in any circumstances to be paid by the local authority.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH asked who would claim the ownership of the schools at the end of twelve years.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): The question is in respect of whom the rent is paid. If the rent is paid, no matter by whom, the hypothesis which has been suggested does not arise. I quite agree that the Statute of Limitations makes the payment of rent the test, but it is not the question that there is not to be any rent paid. The school is not to have rent paid for it by the local authority, but it is not provided that no rent is to be paid for the school.

LORD DAVEY: A noble Lord who owns a school and manages it by managers is himself in occupation, and therefore the Statute of Limitations could not apply.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK moved as an Amendment to the sub-Section providing that the managers "shall, out of funds provided by them, keep the school house in good repair" to substitute the word "structural" for the word "good." The managers were the landlords of the school-house, and therefore bound to keep it in structural repair; they let the school to the local education authority, who became the tenants, and who should presumably be responsible for tenants' repairs. The Bill, however, provided that the managers should be liable for both classes of repair. In many remote parts of the country the schoolhouses, owing to the great difficulties under which they had laboured, and especially owing to the unwholesome rivalry with the board schools, had fallen into very great disrepair. If now the managers were bound not only to put the buildings in structural repair, but to carry out the tenants' repairs as well, the burden would be too heavy for them to bear, and in a large number of cases would lead to the closing of the schools, thereby compelling the local education authority to build new schools, which would necessitate a much larger expenditure than the payment of tenants' repairs.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 18, to leave out 'good' and insert 'structural.' "—(*The Lord Archbishop o York.*)

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD pointed out that the word structural would not legally bear the interpretation which the right rev. Prelate had put upon it.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK said he was perfectly ready to adopt any word which would convey his meaning.

VISCOUNT CROSS said it was surely right and proper that one party should bear the cost of landlord's repairs and the other that of tenant's repairs.

LORD DAVEY was of opinion that the most rev. Prelate had misconceived the situation altogether. The school was, and remained, the property and in the occupation and possession of the managers, and the local authority were not the tenants in any sense whatever. The relation was not that of landlord and tenant at all, but rather that of a person carrying on a school for the maintenance of which a benevolent friend provided the funds.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK reminded the noble Lord opposite that the managers were to provide the school, and argued that, having provided it, they were no longer tenants of the school except as agents for the local authority.

*VISCOUNT GALWAY asked out of what funds the managers were to pay for these repairs. There was a very great difference between the managers and the local education authority, because the former had not the power to raise rates for this purpose. He would certainly support the right rev. Prelate. Supposing the windows or doors were broken, would their repair have to be paid for by the local education authority out of the rates, or by the managers? Should it not be part of the expenses of keeping up the school?

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK, speaking from the point of view of the County Councils, expressed the hope that the Clause as it was at present would be adhered to by the Government. It would be exceedingly inconvenient and troublesome to County Councils if they were expected to provide for the smaller repairs of the schools.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH desired to have it made quite clear that if the Amendment were accepted they would not be in any way compromising their position as owners. If the interpretation of the right rev. Prelate was correct the local education authority would be tenants. He understood that the owners had the right of getting rid of the local education authority. If the latter subscribed towards the tenant's repairs, it seemed to him a question of grievance as to their being summarily dismissed from their position as tenants. Lord Davey had assured those who owned schools that they would really be in occupation, and that the Statute of Limitations would not apply. It was necessary that they should take a logical position, and also assume from that that they had to maintain all the repairs.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND thought they were taking a rather too technical and legal view of the whole question. He was not prepared to contend against the argument of the noble and learned Lord opposite. Legally, the noble and learned Lord might be right, but, as a matter of ordinary everyday business, was it not the fact that the managers would have to find a school somehow or other, if they did not wish to have a provided school, and that the local authority would provide the money for maintaining that school? If the local authority were to provide the money for keeping up the school, then, surely, the whole duty of keeping it up should be placed on the local authority. What the Bill wanted to do, as it seemed to him, was to place the duty of providing the school upon the managers, and the duty of running it in most particulars upon the local authority. There were certain repairs which would be placed on the managers, and which, as far as practical work went, might logically be placed on the one or the other; but it would be far better carried out by the local authority than by the managers themselves. He was sorry to differ from Lord Northbrook, whose position on the County Councils' Association made his words of great weight with their Lordships. But at the same time, as Chairman of a County Council, he failed to see the excessive difficulty of County Councils checking exorbitant demands upon them for repairs. All that would be required would be from time to time, where they had some reason to suppose that the managers were making an exorbitant or frivolous demand, to send down the county surveyor. Whatever trouble that might cause to the County Council was a mere flea-bite compared to the weight it would have on the managers.

*EARL SPENCER: I quite agree with my noble friend the Earl of Northbrook that, if the Amendment is accepted, the County Councils will have a most cumbersome and difficult duty cast upon them. I can hardly conceive that the managers of these schools should fall so low as to ask that these small sums should be paid out of the local rates. It is, in my opinion, below the dignity of those who have the care and management of these schools to make this demand. I understand that the managers will have a sum which will be more than sufficient to deal with these repairs. It has been calculated that they will have something like £300,000 a year which may be devoted to this purpose, and, as far as I know, they will actually make a profit on the transaction. I hope, therefore, the Government will not give way to this very petty demand.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON was quite certain that the tremendous importance of this question was not sufficiently realised. He had before him the statistics of five schools, which showed the following facts in each case respectively:—Voluntary subscriptions £335, repairs £385; subscriptions £286, repairs £278; subscriptions £124, repairs £153; subscriptions £130, repairs £166; subscriptions £131, repairs £379. The sum named by him as representing the cost of denominational teaching was not at all the same as the cost of repairs, though it had been so represented in the other House. The repairs came to a much larger sum. The Clause as it stood would hit the best schools most, for they would have the largest buildings to maintain, while the grant would go to the local authority. The resolution on this subject passed by Convocation was strictly confined to extensions and landlord's repairs. It would be a terrible thing if, after all this trouble, many of these schools were to sink merely owing to the burden of repairs.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY supported the Amendment, and said he endorsed everything that had fallen from the most rev. Prelate. He was always ready to admit that it was impossible for them to have their cake and eat it. He did not deny that the principle that a certain amount should be paid by the managers towards the repair and upkeep of their school was a just one in return for the compensating advantages given them under the Bill, but it was a question of degree. It was certain, now that the rates were to be used for the support of voluntary schools, that in the rural districts, at any rate, the voluntary subscriptions would be few and far between. In those circumstances, he was afraid that if the managers were to be responsible for repairs the burden would be greater than they could bear. It was a fair and reasonable compromise to limit their liability to the structural repairs. He hoped the most rev. Prelate would press his Amendment, and if a division were taken he should certainly support him.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH said that the Bishop of London having pleaded for the large schools, he wished to say a word for those schools which were classed under the heading of necessitous schools. It was, no doubt, true that legally there was no such connection as that of landlord and tenant between the two parties to the agreement under the Bill, but one party was to provide the school and the other to use it, and it seemed a very fair and equitable division that the landlord's repairs should be paid for by the owners of the school and the tenants' repairs by the persons who were occupying it, particularly as in this case the landlord received no rent for the building. A point which had not yet been touched upon was that the local authority, after the passing of this Bill, would be in possession of funds which the managers of the denominational schools up to this stage had had in their hands, and which were applicable to the ordinary repairs of the school. One of the sources of revenue of the denominational schools in former years were the fees that were paid, but in 1891 Parliament commuted these fees for a grant. The fees were applicable to repairs, and the grant which was given in lieu of them would, under the Bill, pass into the hands of the local education authority. The latter body wished to get rid of the burden of repairs, but yet they took the grant. In addition, there was a further sum given in 1897, on account of their poverty, to the necessitous schools, which considerably lightened the burden of repairs. But that grant would also be transferred under the Bill to the local education authority. He thought that in those circumstances these schools had some claim on the local education authority for the payment of the cost of repairs.

*EARL SPENCER: I wish to raise a very important point with regard to this Amendment. I am distinctly of opinion that this is a question of privilege, as the Amendment involves an addition to the rates. Sub-Section 3 contains the words that—

> "The question shall be determined by the Board of Education, and compliance with this section shall be one of the conditions required to be fulfilled by an elementary school in order to obtain a Parliamentary grant."

The carrying out of repairs is one of the conditions on which the Parliamentary grant is to be made. I shall, therefore, oppose the Amendment not only on its merits, but as a distinct breach of privilege.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that the noble Earl, if he were of that opinion, ought to move that the Amendment be not put. He took exception to these points of order being addressed to His Majesty's Government, who had no power to determine such matters. The House of Commons was surely able to protect itself without the assistance of the noble Earl. Some noble Lords seemed to be much more anxious about the rights and privileges of the other House than of those of their own House.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not for a moment impute any bad faith to the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of London. I am perfectly aware that the Resolution to which the Joint Committee of Convocation agreed, pledged that body only to structural repairs, and that they carefully guarded themselves against offering to undertake, on behalf of the managers of voluntary schools, any liability for internal repairs. At the same time, I must point out that it was no doubt the general intention of the Bill, as introduced by the Government, that the managers should undertake to do everything which was necessary, not only in providing the buildings, but for keeping them in a suitable condition for the work of the schools. The question was raised in the course of the discussions in the House of Commons, and this view of the Government was sustained by a very large majority—a majority far larger than the ordinary Party majority of the Government. I quite admit that since that decision was come to in the House of Commons, our attention has been called to cases of considerable hardship, such as had been referred to by the right rev. Prelate, which would arise in some of the large towns where the burden of repairs may be extremely heavy. Therefore, I have no hesitation in saying that we view this Amendment with a considerable amount of sympathy, even if we are not able to give it our support and approval. I fear that any attempt to meet these cases of exceptional hardship would go very far beyond those cases, and would disturb to a very serious extent the general arrangements which are contemplated by the Bill. The noble Earl opposite has referred to the question of privilege. I do not feel called upon to express any opinion on that point. Every one of your Lordships is as competent as we on this Bench can be to form an opinion as to the views which are likely to be taken in the other House of such an Amendment as that which is proposed. I think, however, that it is worth while to consider, having regard to the very large majority by which the present form of the Bill was sustained in the other House, whether an Amendment of this character would not be one which would be extremely likely, at all events, to raise difficulties with the other House. It is impossible, I think, that we should look at this question entirely by itself. It is closely connected with others we have been discussing, and which we shall probably have still further to discuss. What we have attempted to do in this Bill is to make certain arrangements as between the managers of the voluntary schools and the local education authority in regard to their pecuniary relations, and those arrangements cannot be looked upon individually, but must be taken as a whole. What we have proposed is that the managers shall make themselves responsible, not only for the structural, but also for the internal repairs of the school; that is to say, they must put the building in that state in which the local education authority will be able to use it for the purposes of the school. We further require the managers to give to the local authority the use of the school-house three nights a week for other purposes free of any charge and (this is a point we have just been discussing) we require the managers also to give to the local authority the use of the existing furniture without any charge. On the other hand, we have never suggested that this Bill would enable voluntary subscriptions to be entirely dispensed with. My noble friend Lord Galway asked from what sources these repairs were to be provided for. No doubt voluntary subscriptions will have to be continued for the purpose of keeping up these structural and internal repairs, and probably for some other purposes also. But, as has been pointed out, we have gone some way in relieving the necessity for very large voluntary subscriptions in the future. We propose to provide that the managers shall continue to receive a certain portion of the existing endowments, and that where fees are maintained a certain proportion of those fees shall be devoted to the charges which fall upon the managers. We have also just decided to enable the managers to charge a rent for the teacher's house. In my opinion, your Lordships must look at all these provisions as part of an arrangement which is the best we have been able to suggest in regard to the financial relations between the local authority and the managers. I therefore deprecate as strongly as I can any proposal materially to modify that arrangement in favour of one party or the other. It is for that reason that we declined just now to depart from the arrangement arrived at in regard to a rent for the teacher's house, and it is in the same spirit that we ask your Lordships to adhere to this arrangement. Your Lordships must not forget that this Bill has never professed to relieve those who are interested in denominational schools from the necessity of finding some portion of the expenditure which will be required to maintain them. I trust that it may not be beyond the power of a body like the Church to provide, by means of general subscriptions, extending over large and wealthy areas, for the cases of hardship and necessity which undoubtedly will occur in the case of the voluntary schools such as those referred to by the right rev. Prelate; and I have very little doubt that the zeal which has up to now been shown by the Church in supporting, under far more difficult circumstances, voluntary schools all over the country, will enable them to find some mode of meeting these difficulties, which I trust will be to a great extent exceptional.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said they all admitted that the Church must be ready to give some return for the privilege accorded to her of providing and maintaining religious instruction in the schools. But the Church had given to the State the use of these school buildings, not only during the school hours but also three nights a week. Estimating the rent of these buildings at ¾ per cent. of their cost, the rental amounted to £715,000 a year. The Church was giving that up, and was also willing to provide for the improvement and alteration of the buildings, and for other repairs that were not due to wear and tear. The Church was willing to repair all damage to the buildings except that caused by the wear and tear of the children under the control of the local authority, and that would come to about half of what the whole of the repairs would be. The average cost of repairs in the board schools was 2s. 10d. per head. On that basis the repairs in the Church schools would amount to £700,000 a year. Therefore, the Church was asked to contribute £1,400,000, not for the privilege of controlling the whole of their schools, but for being allowed to give religious instruction according to their belief. That was a splendid bargain for the State; it was too good a bargain. The State ought not to extort from the Church this enormous sum; they ought to share with the Church the cost of repairs. But for the labours of the voluntary schools in many overcrowded districts the destitute population would be allowed to become pagans. He mentioned that in an area in Manchester containing a population of 100,000 people there was not a single resident Nonconformist minister, and the whole pastoral care of the people was left to the clergy of the Church, and, he might add, of the priests of the Church of Rome. It was said, "Why don't you go to the great millowners?" But the millowners were for the most part converted—he did not mean religiously—into limited liability companies, and it was about as easy to get subscriptions out of these corporations as it was to get water out of a stone. It was because he saw the grave issues involved that he urged that it was only fair and honest that the State should take one-half of the expenses of the repairs. It was, in fact, a very good bargain for the State.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH said it would be convenient to know whether the House was discussing the Archbishop of York's Amendment or the Amendment standing on the Paper in the name of the Bishop of Manchester. He respectfully appealed to His Grace not to press his Amendment to a division. He could hardly think that the parishes which the Bishop of London had given the House statistics of were typical of all the parishes throughout the country, and he thought this was a case where the richer parishes must be prepared to come forward and support the poorer. Much as he would like to see the Amendment accepted by the Government, he feared that from the resolutions passed at Convocation, it might be supposed that the Church was acting with something like a bad grace.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK: No, no.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH said that was his personal opinion. He should not like to see the Church left open to the charge of being grasping in its demands He, therefore, could not support the Amendment.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK said he was willing to withdraw his Amendment in favour of that standing on the Paper in the name of the Bishop of Manchester. Not only did both Amendments cover the same ground, but the Amendment of his right rev. brother had the advantage of being supported by a powerful speech.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said he should move his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 20, after 'authority,' to insert 'provided that all damage due to wear and tear shall be made good by the local authority.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I only wish to interpose a very few words with regard to the Amendment now before the House, if I am quite sure what it is. The Bishop of St. Asaph, who has been so long in this House, seemed to be a little perplexed as to the particular Amendment we are discussing. We are apparently browsing about among Amendments, and are not confined to any one. I think, however, that the speech of the Bishop of Manchester will produce a very great effect in the country, and an effect which was anticipated by his right rev. successor in debate. I confess that when I listened to it I could hardly believe my ears, and when he wound up by saying that this was an excellent bargain for the State, I could not help feeling that the State in future would not be very anxious for bargains with the Church if that was the Church's notion of a bad bargain for itself. To listen to the right rev. Prelate, one would think that before the evil interposition of this arbitrary measure, which is almost to break the backs of the Church, the structures of these schools were maintained by some invisible fund which could no longer be available, and that this burden was a completely new one for the Church.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said what the Church complained of was, first, that a portion of the fees was withdrawn, and, second, that there were withdrawn from the schools charges which they were accustomed to make for internal repairs, which were allowed by the Board of Education.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: But, at any rate, there is no pretence, I imagine, that these sources of revenue, however considerable they may have been, were sufficient to meet the cost of the structural maintenance of the schools.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER: I think they were.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: That is altogether new light to me, and I bow to the statement of the right rev. Prelate. But, on the other hand, the right rev. Prelate altogether omitted to state that there are any counter-balancing advantages for the very cruel disadvantages which he represented the Church to labour under in this matter. Are we really to understand, as the right rev. Prelate would have us believe, that this is a perfectly one-sided bargain, in which the Church gives everything and gains nothing? I think, if he will allow me to say so, that the right rev. Prelate endeavoured to prove a little too much. You must take your cake one way or the other, and when he stated his budget to the House it varied with the course of his argument. Sometimes he spoke of the structures of the school as structures of enormous value which the Church was surrendering to the State for no consideration at all except for the right of giving religious instruction, and sometimes they were ruinous and costly to repair, and according to the changes in his argument so were the changes in the structures.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said he did not say anything about their being ruinous. He said they were old buildings, and that, as old schools, they were more likely to need repairs than new schools.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I apologise if I misrepresented the right rev. Prelate. I condensed a sentence into an adjective; it shows the danger of condensation. But taking his speech with that of the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of London, who read out some rather striking figures from his parochial budget, I am inclined to think that the epithet "ruinous," from the structural point of view, is not altogether an unworthy one. After all, I think it will go forth to the world, and even to Australia, of which the right rev. Prelate must have some reminiscences, as a matter of some astonishment that at this stage of the Bill a Bishop of the Established Church of England should rise and state that the measure placed upon the Church a most intolerable burden, and that it was to the State an excellent bargain.

On Question, that the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the Clause, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 114; Not-Contents, 88.

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EARL BEAUCHAMP moved to provide that no charge should be made for the teacher's dwelling-house where it was vested in trustees for the purposes of the school. He hoped, in view of the statement of the Duke of Devonshire in the debate on the Amendment of Lord Davey, that the Government would accept this. It was merely intended to safeguard the case of schools under trust deeds.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 20, after 'authority' to insert 'but no charge shall be made for the teacher's dwelling-house where the same is vested in trustees in trust for the purposes of the school."'—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

LORD DAVEY supported the Amendment, although he thought it might require a little alteration exactly to express what he understood the noble Duke to say in the discussion on a previous Amendment—namely, that where the trust deed provided that the residence should be held as a residence for the master, and for no other purpose, no rent should be charged.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said that if the local authority did not provide the teacher with a dwelling-house they would have to give him its equivalent in salary, and naturally those who had built a house for the benefit of the teacher had a right to demand rent for it. It would be the height of injustice to those who had been generous enough to build a house in connection with the school that they should not have the benefit of it when the local authority took over the school.

LORD DAVEY said the noble Marquess had evidently mistaken what the Amendment meant. It was not a question of the owner of the school having generously provided a schoolhouse as well. The house in the case contemplated by the Amendment did not belong to the managers. It was vested in them as trustees on trust, to be used for the purposes of the school. They had no power under the trust to be either generous or the reverse, and all that the Amendment demanded was that they should continue to fulfil their trust by allowing the schoolhouse to be used for the purposes of the school.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD moved to insert a new sub-Section in regard to non-provided schools. He said he put the Amendment on the Paper because he found nothing in the Bill to say that any of these schools should open with daily prayer and religious worship. By inadvertence he omitted to move a similar Amendment in regard to provided schools, but he would be glad to secure a provision that in all elementary schools Biblical instruction should be given daily under the Cowper-Temple Clause, by which he meant without any formularies distinctive of one denomination or another. In his opinion the Cowper-Temple Clause had hardly been fairly treated. It had been very unfortunately misunderstood to mean that when the managers of a school were about to appoint a teacher they should not inquire as to the religious denomination to which he belonged, or as to his character in that denomination as a religious man. For his part he would entirely decline to appoint a man to the responsible office of teaching young children the Gospel in any elementary school without inquiring as far as he could whether that man was an honest and religious member of his denomination, whatever it might be. He believed that in the country the Amendment would be generally acceptable, in all their country schools, at any rate, and that it would make for peace.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 36, after 'sub-Section (2.)' to insert '(3.) The managers of the school shall provide that: (1.) The school shall open and close daily with religious worship; (2.) Religious instruction, based upon the reading of the Bible, shall form part of the regular instruction of the school for all children whose parents do not object under the Conscience Clause; (3.) The foundation managers may claim that the duly appointed clergyman or minister of the denomination that owns the school buildings shall have free access to the school at reasonable times to superintend or to give religious instruction in accordance with the doctrines of the denomination to those children whose parents belong to it.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: This large Amendment might reasonably claim a prominent place in an Education Bill framed by the right rev. Prelate, but it can have no possible place in the Bill of the Government. The Amendment does not state whether it applies to provided or maintained schools, or to both, but in any case our objection to it is insuperable. If passed it would dislocate the Bill, the scheme of which is to leave the question of religious instruction exactly where it is now, both in provided and in maintained schools.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: Would the attitude of the Government be the same if the sub-Sections were moved separately?

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: Exactly.

On question, Amendment negatived.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD moved an Amendment to provide that in maintained schools all teachers might be appointed without reference to religious creed and denomination, instead of only assistant teachers and pupil teachers. His Amendment was not compulsory; he wished simply to give the managers the option in this important matter. He saw no reason why the managers should not be free to appoint a good Wesleyan mistress as head mistress of the infant school if they saw fit. Under the Clause as it stood, however, they would not be able to do so.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 44, to leave out 'assistant' and to insert 'all.'"—(*The Lod Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY pointed out that in many cases it was provided by the trust deed that the teachers should be appointed with reference to religious creed. He thought that the head teacher should undoubtedly be of the particular denomination to which the school belonged.

***THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD** said he asked that, notwithstanding any trust deed, this liberty should be given. He desired the liberty of the managers to be extended so as to include all teachers.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Clause overrides the provisions of the trust deeds to a certain extent—to the extent of enabling them, in spite of anything which may be contained in the trust deeds, to appoint assistant teachers and pupil teachers without reference to their religious views; but the right rev. Prelate proposes still further to override them. We believe that such a power as that proposed, if possessed by the managers, would cause a great deal of alarm among Church managers, and that this alarm would be produced for really no practical purpose whatever. We think we have gone quite as far as, in the circumstances of the case, it is desirable to go, and we are unable to accept the Amendment.

***EARL SPENCER**: It does not follow, because the head teacher is included in this Clause, that he should be a Nonconformist. What I always feel about these matters is that the Church has not confidence in itself. The adoption of this proposal would tend to remove the feeling on the part of Nonconformists that they labour under a very onerous disability, knowing as they do that in something like 8,000 schools Nonconformists will almost certainly be excluded from the position of head teacher. I earnestly hope the Government will agree to the Amendment.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said that one of the objects of a denominational school was to teach the religion of that denomination, and the proposition that the head teacher need not believe the religion for the teaching of which the school was founded seemed to him not only inadmissible, but absolutely contrary to common sense.

***THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER** said that, while he had the greatest sympathy with the line taken by the Bishop of Hereford, he feared he could not support the Amendment, because it seemed to him it would take away the very character which they felt must belong to denominational schools, and which it was the very object and purpose of this legislation to maintain.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that, as he read the Amendment, it applied to all public elementary schools which were maintained but not provided by the local education authority. Apparently that would include schools which were under trust deeds. The Amendment would, therefore, enable managers who were governed by trust deeds to defeat the expressed conditions of those deeds. To that extent he could not agree with the Amendment, but if the right rev. Prelate would limit his proposal to those schools which were not bound by trust deeds he should be ready to support it.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: The Amendment would then be unnecessary. That can be done now.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,"

Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 167; Not-Contents, 27.

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Newcastle, D.
Northumberland, D.

Portland, D.
Rutland, D.
Somerset, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.
Bristol, M.

Camden, M.
Cholmondeley, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Winchester, M.
Zetland, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Abingdon, E.
Bathurst, E.
Belmore, E.
Bradford, E.
Camperdown, E.
Coventry, E.
Dartmouth, E.
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Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Ducie, E.
Egerton, E.
Eldon, E.
Feversham, E.
Harewood, E.
Ilchester, E.
Lathom, E.
Lauderdale, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Lichfield, E.
Londesborough, E.
Lucan, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Manvers, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Northbrook, E.
Onslow, E.
Radnor, E.
Romney, E.
Saint Germans, E.
Selborne, E.
Shaftesbury, E.
Shrewsbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.
Tankerville, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Verulam, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Wharncliffe, E.
Yarborough, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Colville of Culross V.
Cross, V.
Falkland, V.
Falmouth, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Knutsford, V.
Llandaff, V.
Ridley, V.

Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Ely, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
Manchester, L. Bp.
Newcastle, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
Rochester, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
Salisbury, L. Bp.
Southwell, L. Bp.
Truro, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Addington, L.
Allerton, L.
Arundell of Wardour, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Ashcombe, L.
Balfour, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Boston, L.
Botreaux, L. (*E. Loudoun.*)
Braybrooke, L.
Braye, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Chelmsford, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Colchester, L.
Congleton, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
De Mauley, L.
Dormer, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
Dunboyne, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Ellenborough, L.
Elphinstone, L.
Erskine, L.
Fairlie, L. (*E. Glasgow.*)
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Forester, L.
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Glenesk, L.
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Hatherton, L.
Herries, L.
Hillingdon, L.
Hothfield, L.
Howard of Glossop, L.
Hylton, L.
James, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Lindley, L.
Ludlow, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Middleton, L
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Mostyn, L.
Muncaster, L.
North, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Penrhyn, L.
Pirbright, L.
Redesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Rosmead, L.
Rothschild, L.
Saltoun, L.
Seaton, L.
Sherborne, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Stanmore, L.
Suffield, L.
Teynham, L.
Torphichen, L.
Tredegar, L.
Vaux of Harrowden, L.
Wenlock, L.
Wentworth, L.
Wimborne, L.
Windsor, L.
Wrottesley, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Northampton, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E. [*Teller.*]
Portsmouth, E.
Sandwich, E.
Spencer, E.

Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)
Hampden, V.

Hereford, L. Bp.

Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Coleridge, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L.
Farrer, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Mendip, L. (*V. Clifden.*)
Monkswell, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.

LORD COLCHESTER moved that in public elementary schools maintained, but not provided, by the local education authority assistant teachers and pupil teachers "not belonging to the denomination with which the school is connected" might be appointed, "if thought to be required by the circumstances of the school." At present the words in the Clause were, "if it is thought fit, without reference to religious creed and denomination." His Amendment was intended to avoid the impression being given that the question of religious creed and denomination was to be altogether disregarded, and to meet the case of schools where, there being many children of other denominations than than that of the school, it might be desirable to appoint assistant teachers more or less in sympathy with them, not "without regard to," but because of their denomination. It seemed to be the view of a portion of the teaching profession that the school existed for the sake of the teacher; he contended that the interests of the school should take precedence of those of the teacher.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 44, after the second 'teachers,' to insert 'not belonging to the denomination with which the school is connected'; and in page 5, line 1, to leave out from 'appointed' to the second 'and' in line 2, and to insert 'if thought to be required by the circumstances of the school.'"—(*Lord Colchester.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I cannot help thinking that this is practically an Amendment of a verbal character. Whatever you may introduce in the way of indicating the intention of Parliament, I do not imagine that the words would have the slightest different signification from those in the Bill. I think it would be regrettable that Parliament should give an indication that there are only a particular set of schools in which this greater freedom should be exercised by the managers. I think the intention of the Clause is that, if the managers should think that a teacher of a denomination other than that with which the school is connected is the best male or female teacher, they should have the liberty to appoint him or her to that position, and I do not think the indication which the noble Lord desires to give to the managers, that this right should only be exercised in the case of certain schools in which there are a certain number of undenominational children, should be inserted. In these circumstances, and as, in my opinion, the alteration would not produce the slightest difference in the legal effect of the Clause, it had better remain as it is.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY rose to move the first of a series of Amendments on sub-Section 5, which is as follows—

"Religious instruction shall be given in a public elementary school not provided by the local education authority in accordance with the tenour of the provisions (if any) of the trust deed relating thereto, and shall be under the control of the managers."

He said: My Lords, as your Lordships will no doubt observe, the first two Amendments are of a purely drafting character—to omit the words "shall be" before the word "given" and to insert the words "shall, as regards its character, be" after the word "authority." I have undertaken, on the part of the Government, to redraft and remodel that which has been known in another place as the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment, and it is for your Lordships to decide whether you will discuss the whole question of that Amendment on those drafting Amendments or wait until the alteration of substance which I shall propose comes up.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 7, to leave out 'shall be.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*EARL SPENCER: With regard to the first Amendment, which is merely of a drafting character, I shall offer no opposition, but I am not prepared to say that I agree with the subsequent Amendments. I prefer another form, and I reserve my judgment.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I need not refer in detail to the doubts existing as to the meaning of the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment, but it is generally agreed that there is no very confident opinion in the mind of anyone of the meaning of the sub-Section. There have been several definitions of it. There was the celebrated definition given by a high authority at the Albert Hall; definitions have been given in the House of Commons by the Attorney General and others, but not one has agreed with the other. Therefore I think it would be well to make the intention clear. There are two courses open to your Lordships—either to strike out the sub-Section and frame a new one, or to retain the old sub-Section and work upon it. I have taken the first course, and my Amendmen is on the Paper. Lord Davey also proposes to substitute a new sub-Section for the old one. The Government, however, through my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor, have placed Amendments on the Paper which will have the effect, not of striking out the sub-Section, but of amending it. As to the matter of form, the Government have a right to deal with their own Bill, and if the Bill goes back to the other House substantially amended in respect of this sub-Section, the Government will have to take charge of it. It has already in its present form passed the ordeal of the House of Commons. If an entirely new sub-Section is substituted, that new sub-Section will have to be discussed word for word in the other House, and I can well understand the desire of the Government to have the old sub-Section retained and amended in order to save time. As to substance, the Amendments proposed by my noble and learned friend substantially produce the same results as my own Amendment, and, indeed, are more favourable to my own view than the Amendment which I have myself placed upon the Paper. I therefore think it is better to proceed with the Lord Chancellor's Amendments than to begin *de novo*.

*Viscount LLANDAFF: I would point out to the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor that his first Amendment is not entirely a drafting Amendment, and that it is open to this inference —that the managers, if they choose, may not give religious instruction at all. [The Lord Chancellor dissented.] If this was a matter of law I should bow to the opinion of my noble friend, but it is a matter of common-sense, which anybody can decide as well as a lawyer. The sub-Section, as it is proposed to amend it, would read—

> "Religious instruction given in a public elementary school, not provided by the local education authority, shall, as regards its character, be in accordance," and so on.

I can well understand managers, in order to avoid wrangling and disputes, saying,—"To cut this matter short we will give no religious instruction at all in our school." I am sure that was not what my noble and learned friend intended.

*The Earl of HALSBURY: I cannot help regretting that my noble friend, after his own distinguished career at the Bar, should draw a marked distinction between common-sense and law. With regard to the particular point he has raised, I think the noble and learned Lord has not displayed his usual astuteness. It is true that the words "religious instruction shall be given" are struck out, but the whole theory of the Clause is that there is a trust deed by which those responsible for the management of the school are bound to give religious instruction. That is the only reason why the words are unnecessary. The operation of the Clause would be exactly the same whether these words are there or not. If the managers were to abstain from giving religious instruction, and there was an instruction in the trust deed that religious instruction should be given, they would be guilty of a breach of trust, and the mode in which they could be forced to do their duty in that case would be exactly the same, whether these words were in or not. If, on the other hand, there are no directions in the trust deed that religious instruction should be given, what right have you to put those directions in the Clause? If you did so, you would be enacting something which was not in the trust deed, and you have no right to do that. This Bill does not contemplate that where religious instruction is not given under a trust deed the Legislature should interfere.

*Viscount LLANDAFF: The Clause, as I read it, exempts from the control of the managers one provision in the trust deed—namely, the provision giving an appeal to the bishop as to the character of the religious instruction bestowed. As to everything else, the control of the managers overrides the clergyman. Every part of the trust deed except the part reserved, and only one part is reserved, is under the control of the managers. Therefore, the answer of the managers to such a suit as the Lord Chancellor suggested, would be that in the exercise of their discretion they had determined to give no religious instruction in the school.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD asked what the effect of the sub-Section would be on schools which had no trust deed.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: No effect at all.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF MOUNT-EDGCUMBE moved to insert in sub-Section (5) words providing that religious instruction shall be given in the non-provided schools in accordance with "the principles and doctrines of the Church or denomination to which the school belongs," and (at the end of the Clause) that they should have the right of appeal in case of differences arising as to the character of the religious instruction. He said the meaning of the Clause on this important point was not clear as it stood, and he wished to secure that the religious teaching given up to the present time should be continued in the future. He always believed that that was the vital principle of the Bill, but it was not stated in this sub-Section. The sub-Section only referred to schools with trust deeds, and did not say what was to become of all the other denominational schools which had not trust deeds, the greater number of which were Church of England schools. He supposed there was hardly a Roman Catholic or Nonconformist school in the country that had not a trust deed. In fact, it was difficult to understand how such a school could well come into existence without one, but the schools of the Church of England were in a totally different position. They had grown up from small beginnings during the past 100 years—at any rate, long before 1870—as part and parcel of the parochial system which was intimately wrapped up with the Established Church of this country. They had held that position and taught the doctrines of the Church of England rather by a kind of prescriptive right than by virtue of any legal instrument of which they felt no need. He imagined that the Government wished that teaching to be continued, but, if so, it ought to be clearly stated in the Bill. He desired to ensure in connection with all schools, not merely those possessing trust deeds, the right of appeal to the constituted authority in case of any difference as to the religious teaching, which right was given in a modified form by the Amendment of the Lord Chancellor. It was only Church of England schools that were affected. The schools of all other denominations, he believed, had this right of appeal to their own ecclesiastical authority. If they had not, it was because they had tied down their managers so tightly that no appeal was required. The Government had declared, through the lips of their law officers in another place, that they had considered this right of appeal to the Bishop as the essential and only safeguard against wrangling, deadlock, or litigation. He could hardly understand how they could now abandon a large number of Church of England schools to these ruinous alternatives. They would be told, no doubt, that schools could obtain trust deeds if they wished. That was a point upon which he hoped to have some definite information from the Government. It might be easy for schools without a trust deed to obtain one, but was it easy or inexpensive for a school which had a trust deed which did not give this important safeguard to have it so modified as to give it? There was another point. If deeds were to be obtained they must be obtained before the Act came into operation, and therefore by the existing managers. It was quite possible that in some schools in which the Bishop's arbitration was most specially needed there might be circumstances which would induce either the clergyman or the managers to feel a disinclination to have a trust deed, and in such a case, owing to some temporary circumstances, that school would be excluded permanently from getting this important safeguard. There were certain causes which made this right of appeal more necessary now than in past times. It was impossible to deny that there were a few of the clergy who, to use a very mild expression, were inclined, and he might say determined, to take a line of their own in religious instruction, and especially in the religious education of children. Although no doubt Nonconformists who had to send their children to Church schools when there was only one school in the district did not as a rule object to their children being taught in accordance with the formularies of the Church of England, and although some of the violence which had been displayed in the opposition to the Bill had been stirred up by those militant political Dissenters whose extinction Lord Rosebery so bitterly deplored, but who seemed to have been in exceeding good fettle during the last few months. Still, he was certain that, in the minds of a great many of the more moderate and thoughtful Nonconformists, there was a feeling of bitterness and of suspicion, which was due to their dread that extreme men might teach in the schools doctrines and practices which they could not find in the formularies of the Church of England, and which they regarded as poisonous to the faith of their children. He knew that feeling was also shared by a large number of lay members of the Church of England. In considering the special need for this appeal they had to take into account the elected managers. Of course, those managers would not have, under ordinary circumstances, any direct control over the religious teaching in the school as they were in a minority, but they would certainly watch that teaching closely, not necessarily in a hostile, but certainly in a critical, spirit, and they were likely enough to stir up questions which might otherwise remain quiet, either for good or for evil. Both for the clergy's and the managers' sakes he considered this safeguard was entirely needed, and he believed it would be welcomed by a great many Nonconformists as well as by Church of England people. The feeling of distrust to which he had referred, avowedly produced its Kenyon-Slaney Clause. It had inflicted an irrevocable slight upon the clergy, which fell on the great majority in consequence of the insubordination of a few. He was sure the feelings expressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury were fully shared by his right reverend brethren. He feared that any attempt on the part of the Bishops to change this feature of the Clause, such as was to be attempted by the Bishop of London, could hardly end in anything but a demonstration. He felt any such change would have no chance in the House of Commons. Surely the right reverend Bench would be acting more practically if they endeavoured to protect their clergy, and the children under their care, by asking the Government to recognise the rights of the Church as a body to be the arbiter, as the ecclesiastical authorities in other denominations were the arbiters, in their schools. Among all the Churches and denominations the Church of England stood alone in this respect. It had a right to expect consideration, not merely because it was the Church of England, established by law, not merely because of what it had done for religion and education, but because it was the only Church bound down by Acts of Parliament and legal fetters in a way no other Church or denomination was bound. It was bound and to a great extent crippled in its self-government and discipline, and above all in its power of self-improvement and reform. It had a right, therefore, to special consideration at the hands of Parliament, not in order to give it an advantage over any other Church or denomination, but in order to see that because of its special position it was not placed at a grievous disadvantage in comparison with other Churches and denominations. This would be the case unless Parliament assisted in giving the Church of England this recognition of its ecclesiastical authority. If the Bishops realised, as they must, the ruinous effect upon the position and work of the Church which came from the uncertainty and unrecognised character of episcopal authority, he thought they would press upon the Government every chance of having that authority openly and publicly vindicated by Parliament. It was an opportunity which if now lost might never recur. The Government were conscious of the importance of this right of appeal, and he asked them to have the courage of their opinion, to leave the shelter-trench of trust deeds and come out into the open and boldly assert that the Church of England should have the same right of appeal as all other Churches. Let them cut off the red tape from this Clause and make it clear and practical instead of patchy and uncertain in character. The Amendment was not inconsistent with the principle of the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment, and if the Government proceeded with the matter in the way he proposed they would earn the thanks of a large number of laymen of the Church of England and of the most thoughtful Nonconformists.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, after 'with,' insert 'the principles and doctrines of the Church or denomination to which the school belongs, and with.'"—(*The Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe.*)

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK said that those whose religious convictions were the same as his own would support Amendments which appeared to modify this sub-Section, but he did not believe that any proposals could be carried by which their objection to the sub-Section itself would be removed, because they regarded it as involving a principle which it was wholly impossible for them to support. The present Amendment admittedly did not affect the principle of the sub-Section; it was, however, a slight improvement on the provision as it stood, and he should be disposed to accept it. They would probably be beaten in dividing against the sub-Section as a whole; therefore it would be wise to do their best to secure the accceptance of Amendments which, in their opinion, tended to its improvement. He approached the subject from two points of view, which, to some extent, were analogous. In the first place, they, as Roman Catholics, felt the strongest obligation in their own minds not to support a Bill containing the principle involved in this Clause without doing their utmost to make it perfectly clear that it was only in spite of their strenuous opposition that the principle remained. The principle involved was that the religious upbringing of the children was to be committed to a body of six managers. The trust deed would undoubtedly bring in many safeguards, but that was the principle. It was not a necessary part of the enactment that there should be any trust deeds at all. According to their religious law it was part of the sacred duty and responsibility of the Bishop to take charge of and watch over the religious education of the children, and they could not accept a principle which took from the Bishop that charge and responsibility, and vested it in this body of managers. The Amendment before the House suggested a means of bringing in the Bishops, or those holding similar positions in other denominations, and giving them a power of interference in certain parts of the religious instruction, but where there were no trust deeds the principle would remain unchecked in any degree. Roman Catholics maintained that it was not upon the priest or laymen, or any one but the Bishop, that the responsibility rested, and although he might, and probably would, look upon the priest of the parish or mission as the individual to carry out his directions and work out what he believed to be right, still it was upon the Bishop the responsibility rested, and from that responsibility they could do nothing to relieve him. Then looking at the question on general grounds, if the religious education of the children was so important that special steps were to be taken for the preservation of the denominational schools in order that the children might be brought up in the religion of their parents, it seemed to be a most unhappy and unfortunate scheme to throw that religious education on a table to be wrangled over by these six managers. It would probably work out that four of the managers would be of the denomination to which the school belonged, but it was specially enacted that two should be elected; there was no guarantee that those two would be of the same denomination, and they probably would not be. Therefore, this question, as to the necessity of which being carried out in a peaceful manner they had heard so many exhortations, was to be made a bone of contention among the very body of managers that were to carry it out. It had been argued that the two elected managers would not interfere in the matter. No doubt there were men of discretion who would feel that in the interests of the work to be done it would be better not to interfere, but there were a great many others who would say, "What are we here for at all? We are here for the distinct purpose of preventing the denominational schools being too denominational; we are here to represent the broader thoughts from outside, and to permeate the deliberations of the four managers by other views; our whole business is to interfere as much as possible with the religious control of the school." The position would be absurd. It had been said that the reason for this extraordinary scheme was that in many parishes in

England the clergyman asserted an independent spirit, would not be guided by the counsel of his Bishop, paid no heed to the wishes of his parishioners as to the religious instruction they desired to be given to their children, and that some control was necessary to prevent the vagaries and eccentricities of such clergymen in the interest of the religion they professed and of the well-being of the children under their charge. But this was surely a most complicated and extraordinarily ponderous machinery to bring to bear upon an evil of that kind. Could not the Bishops have been obliged to receive, duly consider, and adjudicate upon complaints made by the parishioners, or by the managers, or by the managers as representative of the parishioners? It seemed to be a very elaborate system for curing an evil which might be dealt with by a much simpler process. Instead of effecting something by which action might be brought to bear in the particular localities, the Bill would set up in every parish this grotesque council of amateur theologians. He ventured to think it would bring discredit on the denominational system and seriously interfere with the harmonious working of the scheme. There were many noble Lords whom nothing would distress more than that the sphere of religion should be made a battle-ground, and their ideal of religious education was that it should be as vague as possible, and that dogmas and anything of a definite nature should be eliminated. He could conceive of no machinery more likely to bring about that result than the scheme of this Bill. But those who held that view had plenty of schools in which to carry it out. There were a large number of supplied schools in which "Cowper-Templeism" was supreme, and these theories were carried out to the full. Those of other views had established denominational schools which had been fostered by the State, and by this Bill were placed upon a statutory footing in order that they might remain denominational schools, and yet these very schools, established to give denominational teaching, and supplied at the cost of those desiring that teaching to be given, were to be handed over to this unhomogeneous body. It was an infringement of the whole idea of the Bill. He and his co-religionists looked upon this sub-Section as being so objectionable that they would be obliged strenuously to oppose it, and they would record their strong opinions as to the character of the principle involved by dividing the House upon it.

*THE EARL OF **HALSBURY**: I cannot help thinking that a great many of the observations to which we have listened in this debate are absolutely irrelevant to the question before your Lordships. The Amendment assumes the existence of the managers and the state of the law under which these schools will work if this Bill passes. With reference to many of the observations of my noble friend I can only say that they have my hearty concurrence, and I would do a great deal, if I could, to aid him in what he desires. But the noble Earl, I think, must have forgotten how his Amendment differs from that which I should move hereafter. He wants the religious instruction to be in accordance with—

"the principles and doctrines of the Church or denomination to which the school belongs,"

and he points out that my Amendment deals only with schools in connection with which there is a trust deed. That is quite true, and I observed that at the end of his speech he suggested that the Government should come out into the open, and not shelter themselves behind trust deeds—phrases the value of which I am afraid my noble friend did not himself quite appreciate. Unless there is a trust deed how does a school belong to the Church of England? What sort of proprietorship is there? That there are schools in this country that are administered by and in a loose general sense belong to the Church of England, and yet have no trust deed, I quite agree; but if you deal with those schools as private schools, whether Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, or Church of England, an owner may change his religion to-morrow, and with it change the whole character of his school. You are legislating here only for those schools which are confined by trust deeds to teaching specific doctrines; therefore, it seems to me that my noble friend is entirely in error in supposing that we could do this if we wished. In what way are the principles and doctrines of the Church or denomination to which the school belongs to be construed? What court of law is to determine that it belongs to this or that denomination unless there is something by which in law it is vested in that denomination? Under these circumstances we cannot possibly accept an Amendment which would be as inoperative as in some respects it would be absolutely unjust, because if it had any effect it would operate as a confiscation of private property with which this House, in the present Bill, has nothing to do. As I have said, with a great many of the noble Earl's observations I entirely agree, and I think they will be carried out by my Amendment, but it is absolutely impossible to accept the present proposal. The noble Duke will forgive me for saying that a great part of his speech might very properly have been delivered on the Second Reading of the Bill or upon the Clause itself, but that so far as the Amendment before your Lordships is concerned I am wholly unable to see the relevancy of it.

THE EARL OF MOUNT-EDGCUMBE said he had used the word "belong" because it had been stated in another place that it was the proper word to use. It was intended to refer to those schools which had trust deeds, and at the end of his second Amendment he had inserted words of a somewhat tentative character describing what "belonging to a particular denomination" might mean. With regard to private property, he felt very strongly that if they had been fighting for schools that were private property they had been fighting all along on false pretences in saying they were fighting for the Church of England.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY pointed out to the Lord Chancellor that there were many schools, the bequests in regard to which simply stated that they were conveyed to the vicar and churchwardens of the parish for the education of the young. Those schools belonged to the Church of England, but there was no direction in the trust deeds as to the kind of teaching that should be given. It was to the case of schools like that, which were a great deal more numerous than was generally known, that they wished the Amendment to apply.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: That would be a trust deed, in my view.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY: I am quite aware of that, my Lord.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY, in moving to omit the words, "the tenour of," said: This, again, in one sense, is an Amendment of form, though I think that in some respects it would be considered to affect the substance very much. The object of the Amendment is to make clear what before was indefinite. A great many people took the view that the words "the tenour of" conveyed no definite meaning to the ordinary mind, and I am not quite certain that among the lawyers there was not considerable difference of opinion as to their meaning. I have endeavoured in the substance of the Clause, by an Amendment I shall move hereafter, to expound in the clearest terms possible what they do mean, and therefore, in order to arrive at that, I propose to omit these words which have been justly condemned as having no definite meaning at all.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, to leave out 'the tenour of.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX moved to omit the words "the provisions (if any) of," so that, in conjunction with the Amendment already made, the Clause would read—

"Religious instruction should be given...in accordance with the trust deed relating"

to the school. It was not a point of much consequence, and if the Lord Chancellor thought the words should remain he would not press the Amendment.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I think the words "the provisions of," are required by the rest of the sub-Section.

Amendment, by leave, of the Hous withdrawn.

*Lord KINNAIRD moved to provide that the Clause should apply to trust deeds which were in existence on 1st January, 1902. Having to act under a great many trust deeds, he was anxious to know who would be the authority to decide on the trust deeds, and how far under the new Act any competent authority would examine these trust deeds. From various statements that had been made, it seemed that a great many new trust deeds were being prepared, and old ones re-formed according to new models, so as to be ready for the passing of this Bill. It was possible that in many cases the objects of the old founders would be completely changed, and properties intended for public purposes and secondary education devoted to other purposes. Unless some such proviso as he suggested were passed, therefore, serious difficulties and injustices might arise.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, after 'deed' insert 'as existing on 1st January, 1902.'"—(*Lord Kinnaird.*)

Lord BURGHCLERE said he had placed on the Paper an Amendment similar in spirit to that now proposed, but somewhat more merciful to intending trustees, inasmuch as it would allow trust deeds dating from 1st March, 1902, instead of from 1st January, 1902. As he understood it, after the passing of the Bill, if such an appeal existed under the trusts, there would be an appeal to an ecclesiastical authority, who would probably be the Bishop in cases connected with the Anglican Church, in the event of dispute among the parishioners as to the religious teaching in the schools. But there were a large number of schools in connection with which trust deeds did not exist, and it had been said that many such schools were now rushing to obtain trust deeds. While that was a somewhat objectionable course, it was not his principal reason for supporting the Amendment. If carried, the Amendment would undoubtedly limit the appeal to the ecclesiastical authorities in many schools, a result he was in favour of for reasons he had some delicacy in stating in the presence of the Episcopal Bench. He had the greatest possible reverence and respect for the right rev. Prelates, and should he refer to a bishop in whom he had not such trust, it would be a purely hypothetical bishop, and, as the Bill would pass for all time, he hoped a highly improbable bishop of the future. There were undoubted differences in the Church of England in regard to ritual and other matters. Reference had been made to them by the Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe and the Duke of Norfolk, but he might quote an even higher authority, who, in reference to matters of discipline in the Church of England, wrote—

> "There is not one single tenet, with perhaps the exception of the Bishop of Rome, round which reformers and anti-reformers fought so fiercely in the 16th century, which is not equally the subject of contention now inside the Church of England."

The author of those words was the late Duke of Argyll, whose name would be received with great respect by noble Lords opposite, and especially by the noble Duke, the Leader of the House. While he would welcome an appeal to the Bishops in such matters in the Church, and believed it would be most useful if they could enforce discipline—though he was aware that it was in many cases a most expensive process—when they came to the question of religious education they stood on somewhat different ground. If practices were carried on in a Church with which the parishioners did not agree, and if, on appeal, the Bishop was of the same way of thinking as the incumbent and confirmed the practices, the parishioners had a certain, though lamentable, remedy, and one he would deeply regret to see used; they need not attend the church, or send their children. But that was not the case with regard to the schools, If the education was conducted in a religious atmosphere with which the parents disagreed, and of which they conscientiously disapproved, how were they treated by the State? The State insisted on the children being sent to the school, so that, if the Bishop agreed with the practices carried on in the school, not only would the parents be compelled to continue sending their children, but actually to pay for the process. That being the case, he thought the appeal should be somewhat limited, and therefore supported the Amendment.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I give the noble Lord credit for desiring to do as he says, but I am unable to see in what manner the Amendment would effect his object.

LORD BURGHCLERE: It limits the appeal to the Bishop.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: No, what this Amendment does is to prevent you making trust deeds in the future or to consider any trust deeds which did not exist before January of the present year. Why should not these schools be allowed to make trust deeds? If you recognise the fact that there are schools which in one sense are attached to the Church of England, without trust deeds regulating them, why should they not be allowed to make trust deeds? Are you going to prohibit people dedicating their own property to that which is a pious use? What evil is being contemplated that would be prevented by this Amendment? It seems to me that the suggestion is the most tyrannical I have heard for a long time. It would not apply only to the Church of England, but all denominations would be put under a ban and precluded from having trust deeds unless they were made before January, 1902. I am a little surprised at such an Amendment being suggested, and more at it being supported and argued.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH thought the noble and learned Lord had misrepresented his noble friend. There was no desire to interfere with the pious intentions of the founders. The idea of the Amendment was simply to prevent trust deeds being entered into with the intention of checking or evading the Kenyon-Slaney Clause. The important element in the consideration of the Amendment was the extent to which it would achieve that object.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Their Lordships adjourned at eight o'clock, and resumed at nine.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, in moving an Amendment providing that the religious instruction should be under the control of the "foundation" managers, said his proposal occupied little space on the Paper, but was, nevertheless, one of considerable importance, inasmuch as it affected all the denominational schools throughout the country. The principle of the sub-Section was that the control of the religious teaching in denominational schools should be in the hands of the managers. That principle had been adopted by a large majority in the House of Commons, and probably coincided with the views of the majority of their Lordships and of the people of the country, but the Amendment, though he greatly disliked the principle, did not aim at disturbing it in any way. What it sought to do was to limit the control of the religious teaching to the foundation managers, who would probably be of the denomination to which the school belonged. What would those Members of the House who had served in the Army think of a measure under which the commanding officer of a regiment was compelled to hand over the control of all questions at issue, whether as regarded discipline or the daily issuing of regimental orders, to a Board consisting of the colonel, three other officers of the regiment, and two officers appointed by a totally different regiment, and, possibly, of another branch of the service? Or, to bring the matter nearer home, what would be said of a proposal that the Leader of either House of Parliament should refer all matters of Parliamentary procedure or policy, not only to their own Party Whips, but to the Opposition Whips also? Such proposals would not be supported for a moment, and yet, under this Bill, it would be perfectly possible for the two outside managers to be of a totally different denomination from that to which the school belonged, or even to profess no religious belief at all. Such a position of affairs was neither reasonable nor logical. He hoped their Lordships would accept his Amendment, by which such a condition would be rendered impossible, and which would tend to preserve the peace they all desired to see in regard to questions of religious education.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, after the second 'the' to insert 'foundation.'"—(*The Earl of Shaftesbury.*)

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: Your Lordships will not be surprised when I say that His Majesty's Government are wholly unable to accept such an Amendment. It is absolutely contrary to the policy of the Bill. It cuts out the two managers, although complaint has been made that the others are already in too large a majority. It is impossible to support such an Amendment.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY thought the remarks of the Lord Chancellor did not in any way get over his point. While it was true the Amendment would cut out the two outside managers, the fact remained that those two managers might be of a denomination to which the school did not belong. Under these circumstances, he hoped he would receive support for his Amendment.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX thought their Lordships failed to realise what would be the result of the Board of Managers as proposed by the Government. The whole of the religious teaching was to be under the control of six managers. In many trusts the managers were specified to be the incumbent and the churchwardens. It frequently happened that one of the churchwardens was a member of the Church while the other was a Nonconformist. In such cases, assuming the two managers appointed by the local authority did not belong to the Church, instead of two-thirds of the Board belonging to the denomination, the managers would be equally divided, three belonging to the Church and three to bodies outside the Church. The Bill professed to save the denominational rights of the Church of England and of the Roman body, but how was it possible to save those rights if the body which had the control of the religious education was equally divided? The thing was impossible. The appointment of the teacher rested entirely with the Board of Managers, it being expressly taken out of the appeal to the Bishop. The managers would make the syllabus of religious instruction. Was it tolerable, on any Church principle, that, say, two Unitarians should have a voice in deciding the religious syllabus for a Church school? If he stood alone, he would protest against any such proposal. The position would not be made much more tolerable by limiting the power to the foundation managers, but it would be an improvement if the Church were not exposed to the dishonour of having it said that this House proposed to place the teaching in her schools wholly under the control of persons who did not belong to her. He should support the Amendment, and hoped the noble Earl would press it to a division.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND confessed that he found it difficult to sit still when the Lord Chancellor treated an Amendment of this kind in so cavalier a manner. The Government were naturally unwilling to accept Amendments, because the fewer they accepted the better for them, but this Amendment was the natural outcome of the principles on which the Bill was based. The measure professed to say that so far as religious education of a particular character was taught in the denominational schools the schools should be free, but that so far as the secular education was concerned the local authority, which supplied the funds, should have a voice in the management. But here, in a sub-Section referring exclusively to religious education, two managers were put in who had nothing whatever to do with the religious education of the school. He failed to see why the Government, as a matter of course, should refuse to accept, or even consider, such an Amendment. The proposal would not remove his objection to the Clause as a whole, but it would be an improvement; it would make the Bill logical, which at present it was not. He would have pleasure in supporting the noble Earl if he pressed the Amendment to a division.

On Question, "That the word 'foundation' be there inserted," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 28; Not-contents, 87.

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*VISCOUNT HALIFAX, in moving "to leave out from 'deed' to the end of sub-Section, and insert 'Provided always that, in schools belonging to the Church of England, any one or more of the foundation managers, if any question arises in regard to the religious instruction given in such school, may appeal to the Bishop of the diocese, whose decision shall be final,'" said: In view of much that has been said during this debate in regard to the character of the Bill as amended in the House of Commons, the first point I desire to press upon your Lordships is the debt that this country owes to the clergy for their exertions in the cause of education. In the past they strove for education when almost everybody else was indifferent to it and many opposed it, and in the present they have, by the greatest self-denial and self-sacrifice, maintained their schools. I must say that the way in which they are being treated in regard to this matter shows very little gratitude for what they have done in the past. This Bill, as it now stands, is not the Bill as it was introduced into the House of Commons. The Bill has been amended—or, I would venture to say, disfigured—by the Kenyon-Slaney Clause. There are some interesting questions which might be raised as to when and how that Clause was introduced, but I shall not enter upon that subject. The Prime Minister has told us that the purport of this Clause was always intended by him, and he asked us why we were surprised at the Clause being introduced. He says that the Bill has meant what the Clause enacts all the time. If this be the case, if it be the case that the Bill from the beginning was intended to enact what the Kenyon-Slaney Clause enacts, I ask why was it not introduced into the Bill in the first place? Why was this Clause, which is of a revolutionary character—because it really upsets the arrangements for the religious teaching in nearly all the Church schools in England—left to a private Member to introduce in the House of Commons? It is not true that those who supported this Bill in the first instance ever understood that such a provision as the Kenyon-Slaney Clause enacts was included in the Bill. When they heard of the control of the managers, they supposed that it meant the control of the managers as against the local authority in regard to the religious instruction given in the denominational schools, and the feeling that was aroused throughout the country when it was made clear that this Clause was going to be accepted by the Government is the best proof that Churchmen, lay and clerical, did not in the least understand that a Clause of this sort was contemplated when the Bill was introduced.

In regard to this Clause there are certain things which have to be said which I would rather not say, but it is impossible to deal with the matter without saying them. I shall, however, say as little as I can. The Church is a teaching body, and the clergyman in each parish is the representative of the Church to give the teaching of the Church, subject to the authority of the Bishop. The clergyman, who has the cure of souls, because he is the representative of the Church, and, whether the trust deeds specify it or not, is the parson, the *persona*, the person responsible for the religious teaching in the parish, and one of the chief objects of a Church school is the religious education of those belonging to the Church in that parish. It is not necessary for the clergyman himself always to give the instruction, but it is of the very essence of the principles of the Church that he should, as long as he has the sanction of the Bishop, and as long as he is acting under the authority of the Bishop, be responsible for the Church teaching given in the Church school. By this Bill you deny what I maintain is a fundamental principle of the Church in this respect. You disestablish the clergyman in the Church school, and you transfer the authority of controlling the religious teaching in the Church school from the clergyman to a body of lay managers, two of whom need not belong to the denomination to which the school belongs. I would ask your Lordships to consider for a moment what the power of these managers will be. They are to have the entire control of the religious instruction given in the school. I suppose that the Amendment to be moved by the Lord Chancellor will be carried, and that the right of appeal to the Bishop will be made clear, but however much you may grant the appeal to the Bishop, that does not meet the principle in the matter, which is the primary authority of the clergyman in the parish to be responsible under the Bishop for the teaching of the Church to Church children in Church schools. These managers are to have the control of the religious teaching. I want your Lordships to remember that the appointment of the teachers rests with the managers, and that an appeal to the Bishop in regard to the appointment of a teacher is expressly excluded by the Bill. The managers will have the settlement of the syllabus of religious instruction given in the Church schools. They will set the questions; in fact, the whole control of the religious instruction is taken from the clergyman and put into their hands, and they will have the power, if they desire so to do, to exclude the clergyman from teaching, in the Church school, those who have been entrusted to him, by his institution, "to the cure of souls," the religion he is bound to teach. In regard to the Amendment moved by the noble Earl opposite it is quite possible that you might have among these managers two Unitarians. I ask your Lordships, is it tolerable that Churchmen should vote for a Clause which in principle admits that two Unitarians may have a voice in determining the syllabus of instruction in a Church school? The noble Lord the Chairman of the London School Board said last night that I was incorrect in what I had said about the teaching given under the London School Board. I will ask the noble Lord whether it is not true that not long ago, in the syllabus determined by the London School Board for their schools, the Gospel of St. John was expressly excluded. I admit that it has been altered since, but it was at first excluded. Moreover, there were in the syllabus of religious instruction questions as to the prophecies in the Old Testament such as, "He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," but teachers were expressly forbidden to associate those prophecies with any person. Suppose there is any personal quarrel with the clergyman, quite irrespective of doctrinal or ritualistic questions, and under a Bill the object of which is to protect and defend the denominational rights of the Church of England and the Roman Church in England religious teaching may be left—left to the discretion of persons who care nothing whatever for the teaching of the Church, and you may have a syllabus such as I have described as having been determined by the London School Board. I say that that is not tolerable. It is not just, and I cannot conceive how anyone who cares anything about the Church of England can vote for such a Clause.

I would ask your Lordships to believe that I am not speaking in the least in the interests of any one section of the clergy of the Church of England. It is very probable that the clergy of whom Earl Carrington spoke in this debate will be the clergy least affected by this Clause. But if they were the clergy most affected by the clause it would not make me a bit more anxious than I am to obtain an Amendment of the proposal. I care about this Clause, not at all in the interests of a section of the clergy, but in the interests of the whole of the clergy of England, and still more for the sake of the honour of the Church of England to which we belong. It is said that there are cranks among the clergy. Are there no cranks among the laity? Granted that there may be some cranks among the clergy; granted that there may be vagaries the result of action of clergymen here and there—and let me say I know much too well how these stories are got up and used for political purposes to attach much credence to them—but granted all that, look at the irony of the situation. Because two or three clergymen have been unfaithful to their vows, if it be so, and because the Bishops have not kept them in order, your Lordships are going to endorse a principle which is in fundamental contradiction to the principles of the Church to which you profess to belong. If you play fast and loose with first principles in this way, you will inevitably rue the consequence of such conduct when it is too late. It was said in the lower House, and it has been said by some noble Lords in this House, that if this Clause were rejected it would bring the question of disestablishment within the range of practical politics. I can assure you that disestablishment has no terrors for me. In regard to a Clause of this sort, much as I dislike every speech I have heard on this side of the House, unfair and unjust as I think they have been to the Church, I would almost prefer to be disestablished wholesale than to be disestablished piecemeal by my friends. I entreat His Majesty's Government not to do this thing. It is a matter which touches the whole of the clergy; the Government make a great mistake if they suppose that only a section of the clergy are affected. Your Lordships will have read an admirable letter published in *The Times* some days ago, signed by Mr. Dibdin, the Chancellor of Durham. Mr. Dibdin is an old friend of mine, but his religious opinions are not in the least like mine. But Mr. Dibdin says exactly what I do in regard to how this Clause touches the clergy throughout the whole length and breadth of the land.

I do not wish to detain your Lordships longer than I can help; therefore I will ask your attention to only one further point. In *The Times* of last Wednesday or Thursday a letter was published from the Prime Minister, in which he took exception to the criticisms of this Bill made by Dr. Clifford, and he explained what the object of the Bill was. At the end of the letter occur these words—this is the Prime Minister's account of the measure which we are now discussing; it is his explanation of it as against Dr. Clifford's version—he says—

> "A measure which requires that the control of the clergy over secular education shall be withdrawn, and that their control"

—I ask your Lordships to mark the words, it is the same word "control" in each case—

> "their control over secular education shall be withdrawn, and their control over religious education be justified."

These words are directly and categorically a contradiction of the Kenyon-Slaney Clause. I ask the Prime Minister to justify himself, and to consent to such an Amendment of this Clause as shall preserve the rights of the clergy. Let him make the appeal to the Bishops as stringent as he will, and I shall vote for it with pleasure, but let him justify himself, and consent to an Amendment which will preserve the rights of the clergy, which will save them from this grave injustice, and which, more important still, will save the Church of

England from being exposed to the dishonour of seeing this gross infraction of her first principles voted for by your Lordships' House.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 9, leave out from 'deed' to the end of the sub-section and insert 'Provided always that in schools belonging to the Church of England, any one or more of the foundation managers, if any question arises in regard to the religious instruction given in such school, may appeal to the Bishop of the diocese, whose decision shall be final.'"—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: The noble Lord's Amendment is open to an observation which I have already made—namely, that where he uses the words "belonging to the Church of England," he either means belonging to the Church of England by reason of some trust deed, or belonging in such a sense as may be intelligible popularly, but in a sense with which your Lordships cannot deal. If he means "belonging to the Church of England" according to the trust deeds, it appears to me that the Amendment that I am about to move deals with what the noble Lord desires, namely—

"That nothing in this sub-Section shall affect any provision in a trust deed for reference to the Bishop or other denominational authority, so far as such provision gives to the Bishop or authority the power of deciding whether the character of the religious instruction is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed."

If that is what the noble Lord means then that is sufficiently provided for in the Amendment I am about to move. But if I am to understand that that is not what the noble Lord means, then I would say that there is no such thing as a school belonging to the Church of England, except it has a trust deed. If there is a trust deed the Bill provides for the preservation of that trust and of the rights thereunder, of which the noble Lord desires to get rid. The trust deed is that which I should have thought the noble Lord would have considered ought to be preserved and kept. But if it is outside the provisions of the trust deed, and there is no such provision, I do not understand why the noble Lord confines the right of appeal which he proposes to one or more of the foundation managers. Does he desire that in this body, which it is desired by the authors of the Bill should work in harmony, you should divide the responsibility; that one set of managers should have a right of appeal to the Bishop, and that the other set should not? It appears to me that the noble Lord has not contemplated the whole consequences of his own Amendment. First of all, he wants to override the trust deed—which I assume to be what he means by the words "belonging to the Church of England"—and when he has done that he further desires that the managers, who are by the whole theory of the Bill to act together, should be divided, and that some should have the right of appeal and others should not. It is impossible to suppose that the Bill could stand with such a conflict of jurisdiction, and His Majesty's Government are unable to accept the Amendment.

LORD HALIFAX: I may just point out that the trust deeds of the National Society provide that the education of the schools shall be under the control of the clergyman. Under the Clause of this Bill, that part of the trust deed is absolutely torn up by the roots.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: Certainly, but that has already been disposed of, and the House has not to deal with that.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: There is one point in the Amendment on which I should like to say a few words, in comparison with the Amendment standing in the name of the Lord Chancellor. The noble Viscount proposes that any one or more of the foundation managers, if any question arises in regard to the religious instruction given in such school, may appeal to the Bishop of the Diocese. I shall not touch at all upon the point to which the noble and learned Lord has just referred, of confining the appeal to one side of the management, because on that point I do not agree with the noble Viscount. The point to which I wish to direct attention are the words "in regard to the religious instruction which is given in such school." In the Amendment to be proposed by the Lord Chancellor we have the words—

"That so far as such provision gives to the Bishop or authority the power of deciding whether the character of the religious instruction is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed."

I think I am right—if I am not I am sure I shall be corrected by the noble and learned Lord—that in practice, in a Church of England school, that would be the equivalent of deciding whether the religious instruction is in accordance with the doctrine of the Church of England. I would desire to point out the very different effect of those two provisions. I cannot but feel that in the future the Amendment of the Lord Chancellor may produce a situation of a very difficult, entangled, and disagreeable kind. What I suppose those who are interested in the welfare of the Church of England would desire, and what I think probably the great majority of your Lordships will desire, is that when in a Church of England school some question arises about which there is local division touching religious instruction, that question should be referred to the Bishop of the Diocese for decision, and however little confidence, in spite of the compliment the noble Lord was good enough to pay us, there may be sometimes in the episcopal decisions, yet I believe your Lordships would probably think that that was the best solution of the difficulty. But it is very important to consider what question the Bishop would, under such circumstances, have to decide. If he is to decide that such and such doctrines are or are not within the limits of the Church of England, he may be deciding a question of a most vital and far-reaching character, and precipitating issues which, while touching one particular school, will actually affect the whole condition and prospects and welfare of the Church of England. In fact, the Bishop would be deciding *pro tanto* the questions which would come before the Supreme Courts and so on, and even if he followed the decision of the Privy Council he might have to pronounce that such and such doctrine was within the limits of the Church of England, though at the time he so pronounced he would be perfectly convinced that the particular way in which that doctrine had been taught at the particular school was contrary to the welfare of the Church of England in that place, contrary to the interests of peace and harmony, and contrary to the good of the children who were being taught. If we take the language of the Amendment of the noble Viscount, we do not find that such words occur. There is to be an appeal. The noble and learned Lord may say that what in my judgment is the strength of those words is also their weakness; in other words that it is because they are vague that they escape the danger which I have ventured to point out in his words. But, however, that may be, that very perilous issue seems to me to be avoided. You would then go to the Bishop—I use the words somewhat hastily, but I hope they are sufficiently correct—you would go to the Bishop as the supreme administrator of the diocese; you would get from him a decision which ought, I think, to be well within his pastoral responsibility to give as to whether such and such teaching was or was not rightly, prudently and charitably given in the school, and he would not have to decide as to whether such and such a doctrine was within the limits of the Church of England. There is a good deal else that I feel anxious to say a word or two about on this question of appeal to the Bishop, but if I may be pardoned for rising again later on, I would like now to leave the point I have raised for the consideration of the noble and learned Lord.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I am afraid I cannot quite appreciate the full argument of the right rev. Prelate, but I think we had better make clear the points we are about to discuss when we come to give a final decision on this matter. The Amendment of the noble Viscount opposite seeks to give an appeal to the Bishop "if any question arises in regard to the religious instruction given in such school." There are some of us who think that no such appeal should be given to the Bishop. Those words cover questions of administration. If any question arises as to the time during which religious instruction may be given, or as to the circumstances under which, or the day on which, it should be given, there would be an appeal to the Bishop, because that would be a question "arising in regard to the religious instruction." That would make the Bishop paramount in that school. If any manager objected to the religious instruction being only half-an-hour instead of an hour, it would be a question arising in regard to the religious instruction and there would be an appeal to the Bishop, whose decision would be final. Therefore the Bishop would be able to say whether the instruction should be for an hour or only for ten minutes, and he would be able to decide that you should use certain books. That, I think, makes the Bishop paramount in the school. That is not the intention of those who framed this Clause. All that refers to administration must go to the managers. They are to be paramount in regard to that. I would, if I could, avoid entering into the broad discussion upon this question, but there was a view expressed by the noble Viscount which, if it should prevail, would render this Bill unworkable. He claimed that the Church of England was represented by its clergy, and by its clergy only. That position does not represent the strength of the Church of England. It shuts out the laity, and if you shut out the laity from carrying on its educational course, the Church of England, instead of being strengthened by the legislation of the noble Viscount, will be weakened to its very foundation, and instead of this being a Bill for strengthening the Church it will be the worst weapon that could be employed against it. I hope we need not venture into these general considerations; I think we had better deal with the question practically. I would ask your Lordships to look at the Amendment of my noble friend the Lord Chancellor. He passes away from all questions of administration. Between the Amendment of the noble Viscount and that of my noble friend a great gulf is fixed. According to the Amendment shortly to be moved there is to be no appeal to the Bishop on questions of administration, but there will be an appeal to him upon certain questions.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: May I interrupt the noble and learned Lord for a moment. I am afraid he is playing on the word that I have been emphasising—the word "administration." I should like to explain that I have no desire whatever to bring the whole of the matters to which he is now referring under the control of the Bishop. I was keeping in view the religious teaching only, and pointing out that it ought not to be impossible to find words enabling the Bishop to give a final decision on questions affecting the teaching, without having to say whether or not that teaching was within the extreme limits of the Church of England.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I quite appreciate the words of the right rev. Prelate, but I am dealing with the Amendment of the noble Viscount. The words of that Amendment do leave the whole administration open to appeal to the Bishop, whose decision would be final. The Amendment of the Lord Chancellor gives an appeal to the Bishop wherever such an appeal is given by the trust deed — that is, by those who founded the school. This appeal is to go to the Bishop, not to the full extent to which there may be an appeal under the trust deed, but only so far as regards the character of the religious teaching. I suggest that that is the proper measure of appeal that should be given. In one sense I could wish for popular control in these schools. The noble Viscount has spoken of the breaking of the sanctity of trust deeds. The trust deed has already been broken; but it has been broken by those who opened the door of these schools—I will not say they sent the rate collector forth, but at any rate they have beckoned him in, and taken as much money from him as they could. It is they who have asked for a readjustment of the trust deed, and whenever popular control is given you must draw a clear line between what shall be the popular control and what shall be governed by the terms of the trust deed. From an abstract point of view I would give no appeal at all, but looking at the question practically, I say that where a trust deed has defined the doctrine that is to be taught you cannot make that a subject of debate between six managers; it must be determined by a more judicial tribunal. It is not a question to be discussed or voted upon; a question of doctrine must be decided by some better tribunal. But where can you find that tribunal? I know of none that can be suggested, except, perhaps, the Board of Education. But that is a political Department. I know of no other but that representative of the Church to which the school under consideration belongs. Although the members of the Episcopal Bench have drawn us more closely to them during the debates on this Bill, there are some of us who have no inherent devotion to the Episcopal Bench as a court of appeal, but still the Bishop represents in each diocese the head of the Church, and I must confess that upon points of doctrine I know of no better tribunal in regard to the Church of England than the Bishop of the diocese. The Amendment that I had intended to move dealing with this point is exactly similar to that of my noble friend. The Lord Chancellor's Amendment, however, has one point of superiority over that of the noble Viscount. We all admire the noble Viscount's chivalrous devotion to the clergy of the Church of England, but it must be pointed out that his Amendment deals with the Church of England only. For legislation that is not sufficient. There are other denominations which have their schools, and they want an appeal too. You have no right to deal with the Church of England and not with the Church of Rome or with the Nonconformist denominations. The Wesleyans are a powerful denomination, and have a right to ask that their trust deeds shall be carried out, and that an appeal shall go to their Pastoral Conference. This is a matter to be considered as a matter of common-sense, and I hope your Lordships will now enter upon the consideration of the Lord Chancellor's Amendment and deal with it according to its merits.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER: There are apparently two questions which might be made the ground of appeal to the Bishop. First, who shall give the religious instruction? and secondly, what shall be the nature of the instruction given? As an individual I should very much have preferred that an appeal should lie on both these points, but I recognise very clearly that in the present state of affairs it may be exceedingly difficult for the Government to grant an appeal upon the first of those questions. We are in this position in respect of this Amendment, that we must either take what the House of Commons have passed and be satisfied with it, or we must agree to receive the concession which has been made on the part of the Government in the Amendment to be proposed by the Lord Chancellor. If we reject what is offered by the Lord Chancellor, the Bill will go back to another place, and it will be said that we have not received this concession. What will be the consequence? The House of Commons will most certainly revert to its original Resolution, and the Clause will remain unaltered. I look upon this practical necessity as determining, at any rate, my vote in respect to the matter. I know we all have to suffer for the faults of our brethren, and I know that in this case I am going to suffer for the faults of some of my brethern. They have produced so widespread a feeling of disgust and distrust amongst many of the laity that I must bow my head in sorrowful acquiescence to the behest of the Government. I do not like it, but it is a practical necessity, and so, as the Government have granted to us this very important power of an appeal on questions of doctrine, I gratefully accept it. If the Government had not granted that, it would have been impossible for me to stand up here to-night and speak on behalf of the proposal of the Government—totally impossible—because I agree with the noble Viscount to this extent, that it would be not merely unseemly, but impossible, to submit to half-a-dozen very good, but unlearned, men in a village council, the determination of what was or what was not the doctrine of the Church of England. It would be unseemly to submit even the question introduced by the Lord Chancellor's Amendment, namely—Do the particular words which we have taken down as being used by the clergyman comply with the conditions required in a person teaching the doctrines of the Church of England? I say it would be utterly unseemly. Further than that, it would have been contrary to the whole precedent of English law. In another place a person of very great wisdom and high political position pointed to the fact that in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, laymen were entrusted with the determination of such a question as that referred to in the Lord Chancellor's Amendment. I have two remarks to make upon that. To compare any six good men appointed to be managers of a voluntary school with the men of high erudition, of great legal practice, and skilled in judicial matters who form the Judicial

Committee of the Privy Council is trifling with the matter. Moreover, no matter goes to the Judicial Committee unless it has first gone to the Bishop of the diocese. It may be appealed from the Bishop to the Archbishop's Court, and then, perhaps, to the Judicial Committee. No man who is charged with heresy in the Church of England can be prosecuted on that charge except under the Church Discipline Act, and that Act makes an appeal lie to the Bishop. The Prayer Book of the Church of England is—if we can speak of so venerable and distinguished a document in such a manner—a Schedule to the Act of Uniformity. Parliament has approved of all the rubrics in that book and of the words in it. If a question arises about doctrine, what is the direction of the Book of Common Prayer which Parliament has approved? It is that if people differ in the interpretation of the words of the book, the question shall be submitted to the Bishop, and if the Bishop is in doubt, he shall pass the matter on to the Archbishop—as was, in fact, recently done. The precedents of English law, therefore, if the question be whether certain words agree with the standards of the Church, require an appeal to lie to the Bishop. The Government have complied with that requirement, therefore they have given us a most important concession, and I do not want to risk the loss of it by rejecting it now, for we shall never get it offered again. I am persuaded, consequently, that the wisest course that can be adopted by the members of this Bench, and by those of your Lordships who agree with us, is to bow, as I have said, with melancholy acquiescence to the decree of the Government. They will not allow the question as to who shall teach to be submitted to the Bishop, but they will grant an appeal to us on what is infinitely more important,—namely, whether the teaching of a particular clergyman is or is not in accordance with the doctrine of the Church. I am in favour, therefore, of heartily supporting the proposal submitted to us by the Lord Chancellor, and of rejecting the Amendment of the noble Viscount.

*LORD ROBERTSON: I am afraid the speech of the right rev. Prelate, however convincing, does not cover the real subject at issue in this debate. I speak as a convinced supporter of the Bill introduced by His Majesty's Government, and I will say in a word what I took the principle to be. It was to discriminate between secular education and religious education; the State was to avail itself of the secular education afforded in denominational schools, to have that governed by the representatives of the ratepayers, and to leave the religious instruction aside, apart from that altogether. I hold that to be a perfectly sound principle, and one of easy application. Until the introduction of this unfortunate Amendment that principle was well carried out. It is, of course, difficult to draw a clear and sharp dividing line all through the system of instruction between what is secular and what is religious. But, fortunately, the Code has done that for us already, and, accordingly, there is no difficulty in distinguishing between what belongs to the secular region of education and what to the religious. Up to the time when this Amendment was introduced, the principle adopted has been that the State should take the denominational schools, so far as religion is concerned, as they stand, and not meddle with them. What has been done by the Kenyon-Slaney Clause, and what is proposed to be continued by the Amendment of the Government, is that the trust deeds shall be ripped up and reconsidered, and that religious instruction shall be given, not by the person directed in the trust deed, but by a new and lay body. I do not venture to follow in those high paths which are trod with so much confidence by the noble Viscount opposite. I take a much more mundane and, I think, a much more perceptible ground—I take the trust deed in its ordinary form. I say that the Government in the present instance have taken the trust deed and subverted it altogether. What does the trust deed say on this subject? I am taking the ordinary form of trust deed as printed in the Blue-book in the Library. On this particular question it says—

> "The principal officiating minister of the parish shall have the superintendence of the religious and moral instruction of all the scholars."

That is a clear and definite statement as to who is to have the superintendence of the religious instruction. In contrast to that, the trust deed then says—"but in all other respects the control and management of such school and premises, and of the funds and so on," shall be vested in and exercised by a Committee consisting of "so and so." Therefore your Lordships will see that this very distinction upon which my noble friend Lord James has bestowed so much emphasis is clearly recognised in the trust deed already, because it has given the control and management—using those very words—in lay matters to the Committee, while it has given the superintendence of the religious instruction to another person altogether. I ask the Committee this: Is it possible to say that the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment, which has been adopted by the Government, does not enact that the superintendence of the religious and moral instruction shall not be with the minister, but with this new-fangled body? What is the result of that? You have a new body of managers, unaccustomed to their duties, and they are told that they are to superintend the religious and moral instruction of these young people, and the Government come forward with an air of triumph and say, "We have solved the question, because we have given an appeal to the Bishop." But the odd thing is that they give an appeal, not from the minister in charge, as is the case under the trust deed, but from this new body of laymen, who are to experiment in knocking up some popular religion which will suit the susceptibilities of the ratepayers. That is the plain English of it. Let me press that home still further. What is the reason of the introduction of this Clause at all? How does it fit in with this hybrid tribunal? The avowed object of the author of the Kenyon-Slaney Clause, who is an old Parliamentary comrade of mine, was to aim a blow at Ritualism being taught in the schools. I have no opinion at all adverse to that suspicion; nay, I go this length, that I think there is a good deal of folly in Ritualism, and a very great deal in anti-Ritualism; but I am ready to suppose that there are excesses in the direction of Ritualism, or of the doctrines associated with Ritualism, which ought to be checked. But for that check, I, for one, look not to this irregular and hybrid tribunal, but to the constitutional authorities of the Church. I have no licence to teach, much less to lecture, and least of all to lecture my pastors and masters; but I make no doubt of this, that among the signs of the times which will be taken to heart by the Bishops of our Church this is not the least, and I believe it constitutes a strong appeal to them to exercise more firmly than they have done before their powers of superintendence both in schools and in church. But is that a reason why we should do this great wrong? Is it a reason why we should subvert the trust deeds which have created the schools? It seems to me that you are merely making an excursion out of the region of education into that of theology, and trying by a side-wind to correct errors which ought to be faced boldly, if faced at all. May I add one word more? If it is thought well to have a crusade against Ritualism in the wrong place, may I ask whether you have prospered so well in previous crusades against Ritualism? Have you succeeded in checking the Ritualism which you are now condemning? Is it likely that in this roundabout way you will succeed in achieving that which you have failed to do by open measures? Standing here, not as a Churchman—because this is not a Church question at all—but standing here in defence of the rights created by trust deeds—for that is the ground on which I go—I, as a Tory supporter of the Government, most heartily protest against a measure which is certain to be cited as warranting incursions, inroads, and forays upon trust deeds.

Having ventured to speak with this freedom, may I turn from the Eldons and Sidmouths of the Front Bench to—what shall I say?—the Pyms and Hampdens on the other side of the House. I should like to ask on what principle they are going to support this new establishment. I think it was a sound principle that, if denominational teaching was to be tolerated at all, it was at least to be held apart from secular education, and was not to be mixed up with it. Now, noble Lords opposite are going to vote for setting up a delegation of County Councillors to regulate some sort of Church of England teaching and doctrine. What warrant is there for that? I suppose it will be said that those crying injustices which have driven noble Lords into such extremities of speech warrant irregularities in legislation. I should like to remind them of the broad facts of the case. First of all you have in your board schools education exactly to your liking, and you have your rating. Noble Lords speak as if the whole rates of the country were paid by Nonconformists, but they are rating the whole country for the education which they prefer. Now turn to our Church of England schools. There is a Conscience Clause which absolves you from the necessity of sending your children to the religious part of the education in Church schools. Those two precautions and safeguards of the Nonconformist conscience have been supplemented by the Church of England in a manner which, I believe, will be remarked upon in history. Not merely by individual Members of Parliament, who represent the opinions prevalent in the Church of England, but also by the Houses of Convocation, this offer has been made: "If in Church of England schools you dislike the teaching, come and take your children and teach them in your own way." That has been formally offered, and it is a standing offer; but it has never been accepted. Of course it is impossible to suspect Nonconformists of being arrogant; but if it had been anybody else but Nonconformists, I should have said that it was the height of arrogance—first to rate us for the schools which suit them in religious doctrine, and then, having a Conscience Clause, to insist upon managing the religious teaching which they do not require their children to receive; and, finally, to reject what I have described as this standing offer, which I say is conclusive as to the fairness and equity of the position of the Church of England. There is much more to be said on this most interesting subject, but I hope I have said enough to justify my intervention in the debate; and the only remaining duty I have to perform—speaking as I do for the first time in this House—is to thank your Lordships for the great indulgence with which I have been heard.

THE LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH: We have just heard, not for the first time, that the reason why this Kenyon-Slaney

Amendment was brought forward was to put down Ritualism in the Church. There is surely a great difference between Ritualism in the Church and Ritualism in those schools of ours which are governed by trust deeds. As some of your Lordships may be aware, in my diocese there are altogether 2,300 beneficed clergy more than in any other diocese in England. East Anglia is supposed to be a part of Great Britain which is not particularly under the influence of the Church, and which has always been distinguished for Puritan opinion. I have now been Bishop of the East Anglian diocese for between nine and ten years, and how many complaints do you suppose I have had of mistaken teaching in the Church schools? East Anglians are by no means disinclined to make complaints to the Bishop, and I have had a good many complaints on different grounds. But with regard to this particular point I have had one complaint, and one only, of mistaken or disliked teaching in our Church schools. That complaint was made not by a Nonconformist, but by a representative of the Church. No specific charge was brought against the clergyman in question, but he was unpopular because his Ritualistic opinions had alienated many of his people. He was teaching in his school, a certain number of children had been withdrawn from the religious teaching, and I was appealed to, quite properly, in accordance with the trust deed. I found that the complaint was well grounded. It was quite undesirable that the clergyman should continue teaching in the school. I desired him to desist from teaching, and he desisted, and the matter ended. I do not see why that should not occur in every case. In nine-tenths of our Church schools it is distinctly laid down in the trust deed that an appeal shall lie to the Bishop, whose decision in writing shall be final. Upon that, therefore, there can be no question at all. If the people appealed to the Bishop under the trust deed I believe the matter would be satisfactorily decided, as was done in the instance I have mentioned. I am not aware that any of my Episcopal brethren have ever failed to adjust the matter satisfactorily when they have been appealed to. It seems to me, therefore, that you have a remedy at hand already. Mention has been made of clergy who err by giving Ritualistic teaching. I have no doubt that there are a few such, but in my diocese I have met only one such case. On the other hand, there is a very large class of clergy with whom, thank God, many of your Lordships are well acquainted, venerable and venerated men, such as your Archdeacons, men of large and high scholarship, perhaps Fellows of their College, who have been living among their people, loving them, and being beloved, and who, likely enough, have built the schools themselves, or have been instrumental in getting them built, and through whose efforts they have been maintained for several years—these men have taught unquestioned in their schools. But what do you do by this Clause? You tell these venerable and venerated clergy, who may be counted by hundreds, that their position with regard to the young of their flock is to be entirely changed. They are no longer to be allowed to teach in their schools unless they meet with the consent of a body of men, three of whom are their own parishioners—very worthy men, but perhaps quite illiterate—and two imported by an extraneous, if not alien, body. Is that right? Must you not feel that these men will be very deeply wounded at the treatment they are receiving? The clergy feel that they are being treated in this matter in an ungenerous manner. When we consider the zeal of the clergymen of the Church of England on behalf of their schools, and remember that 11,000 schools have been built mainly through their exertions, is it surprising, now that this slur is to be cast upon them, and the right they have hitherto had of teaching the lambs of their flock is to be taken away from them, and they are only to be permitted to discharge that duty, if they are allowed, by two or three of their parishioners, and two or three strangers, that they should feel that they are being treated in an ungrateful and ungenerous manner? I am persuaded that many of our clergy will feel it very sorely; they will be disheartened at being thus slighted, and, human nature being what it is, will lose, in some degree, their interest in the schools. Can that be for the good of the education of the young? It is quite evident to me that there is no real dissatisfaction with the religious teaching given by the clergy in our schools. In my diocese, thanks be to God, we have nearly 72,900 children being taught in the Church schools. Out of those 72,900, only 329 have been withdrawn from some portion of the religious teaching, while those who have been taken by their parents from all the religious teaching number only thirty five, and I am told that the majority of those thirty-five are children either of members of the Roman Church or of Jews. Does not that show beyond all possibility of doubt, that the parents speaking generally, are thoroughly satisfied with the teaching given by the clergy in the schools? Concerning the general well-being of the Church in this matter, your Lordships are aware of the great difficulty which we Bishops find in obtaining clergy to fill the vacant cures and curacies. Are you doing that which would move men to come forward for the sacred ministry? Is it not the desire of the laity that the clergy of the Church of England should in the future, as in the past, be men of learning, high education, scholarship, culture, and gentleman-like manner. Hitherto the clergy have been men of high education and culture, and one reason has been that the status of the English clergyman, though not bringing him in great wealth, has been one of comparative independence. If you thus limit his prerogatives, hinder him in the discharge of his duties, and cramp him by allowing him no longer to discharge what he regards as his duty—namely, to teach the young of his flock, do you not think it likely that men of independent minds will become less and less inclined to enter the ministry of the Church? Surely in this matter the interests of the clergy and of the laity are precisely the same. If you in any way depress the clergy or seem to cast a slight upon them, it must surely end in injury to the Church at large, including the laity. I should just like to point out that, from my point of view the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment infringes an essential principle of the Church. What do we Bishops say when we commission a man to go down into his parish? The solemn words we use to him in the name of the Church are "We commit unto you the cure and government of the souls of the parishioners of the said parish," that is to say, the Church, acting through the Bishop, gives to that individual man jurisdiction or spiritual authority in the parish to which he is going, and in that parish he is recognised, not only by the

Church, but I believe by the law of the land, as being the minister of the parish, whose duty it is to minister to all the members of the Church of England within the bounds of his parish. By this Kenyon-Slaney Amendment you really take away a portion of the parish clergyman's jurisdiction. You withdraw from him the children; you take the lambs from under his charge, and say he shall not teach them unless allowed to do so by the managers. That is surely in some degree an infringement of the principle of the Church. I earnestly hope that something will be done to remedy the evil I have referred to.

*EARL SPENCER: I rise simply for the sake of advancing business. I confess myself that I am in a great state of confusion. We have had a particular Amendment brought forward, and we have had an exceedingly able and interesting speech, which I am sure your Lordships appreciated very much, from a noble and learned lord who comes from Scotland: but he did not even allude to the Amendment, and I am not in the least aware of which way he would vote. We have also had a very interesting speech from the right rev. Prelate, which was perhaps somewhat more to the point. We were, however, discussing an Amendment of the noble Viscount, Lord Halifax, but we have wandered from it. I suggest that it would be better to adhere more closely to the Amendment before the House, instead of making Second Reading speeches.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: The noble Earl has, to some extent, anticipated what I was about to say. I also found great difficulty in following the course of thedebate, as we were not discussing the particular matter before us, but were talking rather at large upon general questions, the applicability of which to the particular Amendment it was sometimes extremely difficult to follow. I would like to associate myself with the noble Earl in congratulating the House upon having, as an addition to its wisdom, such a speech as that just delivered by my noble and learned friend. I am familiar with him as a coadjutor in our judicial proceedings; but I think your Lordships will all agree that if he would favour us with a little more of his wisdom on other occasions it would be greatly to the advantage of your Lordships' House. Having said that, let me add that I think he did make one point which, although I did not agree with him in it, was applicable to this particular Amendment. That point, which I will endeavour to answer, was that this Clause was an improper interference with the trust deeds. I know that he is a great lawyer, and, as he said, a great Tory (I do not hesitate to associate myself with him in this respect), but there is one point which he will forgive me for saying he entirely omitted to consider. This Bill is not dealing only with trust deeds. If it were, nobody would interfere with them. The question we are dealing with is not only that of trust deeds, but also that of the distribution of public money; and as the distribution of public money is part of the administration under this Bill, which we hope will become an Act of Parliament, it is impossible to suppose that those who have the responsibility of subscribing public money, whether they are called State or Civil Government—I care not what particular form of words is used—should not so far intervene as to say, "Before we are called upon to subscribe public money for the purpose of aiding and assisting schools in which these things are being taught, we will have some voice as to what shall be taught therein." Whether that is right or wrong I am not now stopping to discuss. It is one of the conditions of this Bill, and it is one of the things which caused this Bill to be brought before your Lordships' House. In supposing that that can be answered by the suggestion that you have no right to interfere with trust deeds while he omits to take into consideration the contribution of public money, and the intervention of the ratepayers, my noble friend has, if he will forgive me for saying so, done in his political course what he never does in his judicial course—namely, entirely missed the heart of the Question.

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Ridley, V.

Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Chester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Ely, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Manchester, L. Bp.
Newcastle, L. Bp.
Ripon, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
Southwell, L. Bp.
Truro, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Addington, L.
Allerton, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Boston, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Brassey, L.
Braybrooke, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burghclere, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Chelmsford, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Colchester, L.
Coleridge, L.
Congleton, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Davey, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
Denman, L.
Dormer, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)

Dunboyne, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Ellenborough, L.
Elphinstone, L.
Erskine, L.
Fairlie, L. (*E. Glasgow.*)
Farrer, L.
Forester, L.
Glanusk, L.
Glenesk, L.
Hylton, L.
Iveagh, L.
James, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Lindley, L.
Ludlow, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Mendip, L. (*V. Clifden.*)
Middleton, L.
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Monkswell, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Mostyn, L.
Newton, L.
North, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Penrhyn, L.
Reay, L.
Redesdale, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Rowton, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Seaton, L.
Sherborne, L.
Shute, L. (*V Barrington.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Suffield, L.
Torphichen, L.
Tredegar, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Welby, L.
Wenlock, L.
Wimborne, L.
Windsor, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)

Abingdon, E.
Shaftesbury, E.

Halifax, V. [*Teller.*]
Llandaff, V.

Norwich, L. Bp.

Arundell of Wardour, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
De Freyne, L.
De Mauley, L.
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)

Herries, L.
Howard of Glossop, L.
Robertson, L.
Stanmore, L.
Teynham, L. [*Teller.*]
Vaux of Harrowden, L.
Wentworth, L.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: In asking your Lordships' attention to the Amendment I am about to move, I cannot but feel that that attention has had a considerable draft already made upon it by discussions which have more or less anticipated the consideration of this Clause. The most convenient course, I think, would be to state at once that the object of this Amendment is not to make any alteration in the intended meaning of the sub-Section known by the name of Colonel Kenyon-Slaney. My best plan will probably be to read to your Lordships the Amendment, and in doing so, to explain as well as I can what I believe it means, what it is intended to do, and what it is intended not to do. Let me say at once that we are dealing now with denominational schools, schools attached to a denomination by a trust deed, and that the discussion cannot properly wander over questions which do not arise within that circumscribed limit. The Amendment I desire to move is, after the word "managers" to insert—

> "Provided that nothing in this sub-Section shall affect any provision in a trust deed for reference to the Bishop or other superior ecclesiastical authority."

And let me pause here to say that I propose with your Lordships' permission to add there "or other denominational authority." It was originally intended that the word "ecclesiastical" might, and it was supposed to, include all other authorities to whatsoever denomination they might belong, but some question has arisen as to whether in the peculiar condition of the Church of England and the legal language applicable to the Church of England, the word "ecclesiastical" might not be considered too narrow, and not to include, for instance, the Wesleyan body. It was certainly not intended by the authors of the Clause to exclude any religious body that might have a trust deed, and in respect to which the power of appeal might be given. The Amendment will consequently read—

> "Provided that nothing in this sub-Section shall affect any provision in a trust deed for reference to the Bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority so far as such provision gives to the Bishop or authority the power of deciding whether the character of the religious instruction is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed."

For the moment I do not intend to deal with the question of whether or not that is right. What I propose to point out first is what the provision does not do. It does not propose to give any appeal on the question of the administration of the schools. It does not propose to repose in any body but the managers of the schools the control of the religious teaching. It does not propose to make anything but the character of the religious teaching appealable to the

Bishop. For the moment I do not say whether that is right or wrong. Rightly or wrongly, the Government have deliberately and intentionally reserved that portion of the religious administration, of the conduct of the schools. I do not care what phrase is used for the decision of the managers of the school, subject only to the question of whether or not the religious teaching is in accordance with the provisions of the trust upon which the school is to be administered. That reservation does not comprehend the details of management, or the mode of management, or the person managing, but simply the question of the religious teaching. To put it in plain terms: If it is a Roman Catholic school, it is the question of whether the teaching is Roman Catholic; if it is a Church of England School, it is the question of whether the teaching is Church of England, and so forth. The mode in which the teaching is to be given, and the person by whom it is to be given, and the rest of the administration of the school, is intended to be left in the hands of the managers of the school.

On the subject of the Kenyon-Slaney Clause generally, I must say that I feel an apology is needed. I do not hesitate to say that some reason ought to have been given why the whole of this Clause, including the provision I am now moving, required to be inserted. I deprecate as strongly as possible the suggestion that the Clause is any reflection upon the clergy of the Church of England. It is not so intended. It is not founded upon any suspicion or distrust of or disbelief in the goodness of the work they have done, or any desire to overlook the incalculable amount of gratitude which this country owes to the Church of England for its services in the cause of education. But, after all, the question is only one of the sort of inconvenience from which we all suffer from time to time, because there are some persons who are not so scrupulous in the performance of their duties as they ought to be. We must make a general law by which they can be reached. Let your Lordships take the administration of any institution you please. Take a railway company. Why is it that whilst travelling on the lines of our railway companies we are worried about our tickets—that officials nick them and snick them, and frequently waken us from our slumbers? Millions of people travel by the railway, but only a small number are mean enough to try to cheat the companies, but we are all obliged to submit to annoyance on their account. The same sort of thing takes place if you travel abroad. Every passenger has to submit to a search because half-a-dozen people will smuggle if they can. So it is here. In dealing with great institutions it is impossible to pick out individuals; you must make a law applicable to everybody. I believe that the object of this proposal will be largely achieved by the fact of its existence and by its administration. Every now and then the fact that there is an appeal to the Bishop will tend to prevent clergymen abusing their position. I have been for fifteen years in a position in which I have had good reason to know the good work done by clergy of the Church of England under circumstances of great privation, sometimes privation which affects them in their dearest and nearest relations, because they will do their duty. I cannot say how much I should feel it if I was supposed to be undervaluing the work which these men have done. If they had been in another class of life they would probably have gained stars and stripes and honours by what they have done, but they have done it unknown and unnoticed, because they believed it to be their duty. I thought it right that somebody speaking from this Bench should say that we at all events do not share the suggestion which has been made—viz., that this Clause was introduced because of any general distrust of the clergy of the Church of England. On the other hand, it is impossible to deny that there have been those who have thought proper to avail themselves of their opportunities to do that which is repugnant to the whole general body of the laity of the Church of England. They have sought to get rid of the old traditions of that great Reformation to which the English Church is indissolubly wedded. Everybody knows what is done from time to time by persons whose personal vanity and desire for ribbons, and nonsense of that sort, disgust the whole body of the English Church. The cases of the people who do these things are published in the newspapers, but the cases of those who are working daily and hourly for the benefit of their parishioners, with the hearty support and love of their people, never become known. It is by the aid of these persons that such a Clause as this may be made to work harmoniously and without any friction in the Church. This Clause has been accepted by the Government with a view to making it something that should be used *in terrorem* against those who are disposed to depart from the true doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

Then, I cannot forbear from saying that with my knowledge and experience of the work of the Church of England, I could not help feeling something like horror when I heard the attitude of the clergy on this subject described as one of grab, and that by a Bishop of the Church. What that means distinctly I admit I do not know, but it was intended to be vituperative, I presume, and to indicate that their attitude is that of selfishness and a desire to obtain that which is not their own. I hold that that is absolutely unjust. They have but one interest, I believe, and that is the interest of teaching the Word of God as they believe it ought to be taught, and in the eternal interest of their parishioners to see that that duty should not be neglected. It would be idle now to say anything of what the clergy of the Church of England have done, and what the Members of the Church of England have done from time to time for the religious instruction of the people; but I believe that no one could gravely get up here or elsewhere and for a moment deny the enormous debt of gratitude which the country owes to them. But there is, I admit, another side to that. You may have persons who are disposed to look to their own interest, irrespective of such supreme considerations. The true line to take on this question is that, where you are dealing with the administration of these schools, you should, on the one hand, have due regard to the religious character of the institution for which you are providing, and, on the other hand, that you should have associated, at all events presumably, though, I admit, not necessarily, with the clergyman some laymen. May I be permitted to say, with the utmost respect for some observations which I have heard from the Episcopal Bench, that the Church does not mean the clergy alone? In early life I had as an undergraduate of the University of Oxford, to give my allegiance to the Articles of the Church of England, and those Articles did not speak only of the clergy, but of the congregation of faithful men. I do not myself understand why it should be thought inappropriate that in such a provision as this some of the laity should be associated with the clergy in continuing and administering the religious instruction of the parish. My own belief is that, properly administered and properly understood, this Clause will be a great assistance to the clergy, and will fortify them in what they have to do. If it operates, as I believe it will operate, in spite of the elements of discord that seem to have been scattered around a little recklessly, I entertain very little doubt that the Clause itself need never be brought into action at all. A great many laws are operative by the mere fact of their existence, and not by their vindication, and in the same way, if this Clause is accepted in the sense and in the spirit in which it is enacted, and with the precautions by which it is surrounded, so far from its being an impediment to the Church and to the administration of the clergymen of the parish, my belief is that it will be a great assistance The only clergymen who are likely to be excluded from participation in the teaching of their parishes will be such as have entirely lost the confidence of their parishioners by the fact of their disloyalty to the Church to which they profess to belong. If that is the only operation of the Clause, I for one shall regard it as a very wholesome operation.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, after 'managers,' to insert 'Provided that nothing in this sub-Section shall affect any provision in a trust deed for reference to the bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority so far as such provision gives to the bishop or authority the power of deciding whether the character of the religious instruction is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*EARL SPENCER: It will perhaps tend to expedite the business of your Lordships' House if I state at once the course my friends and I intend to take with regard to this proviso. I wish there had been some one else to speak after the very able speech to which we have just listened with such deep interest. I desire to say at once that I am in favour of this Kenyon-Slaney Clause. I entirely concur with the noble and learned Lord in not placing any general distrust in the clergy of the Church, and I agree with him in a great deal that he had said with regard to the devotion and the work of the clergy in the past and in the present, and in the hope that they will continue that work in the future. I know that in the old days they were among the first to help to spread education in this country, and though I fear I now differ from them in many points, I differ from them without wishing to attach or to place any distrust in the general body of the Church.

I entirely agree with what the Lord Chancellor said as to why it is necessary very often to introduce penal legislation. It was not on account of the general conduct of the body, but rather on account of the misconduct of a few. I should put it in exactly the manner in which the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Manchester put it, who said he had to accept this, and regretted it. Why did he accept it? Because he felt he was obliged to on account of the misconduct—I do not know whether I am using the exact word—of some of his reverend brethren. I regret that this should be so, but it is on account of these clergy who go beyond what many of us think are the true doctrines and ritual of the Church of England, and who may be the persons who wish to excite the same atmosphere in the schools, that we consider some check must be put upon them, and some power given to those who directly represent the parents of the children.

We have heard a good deal about the parents of the children, but I cannot for a moment say that too much has been said on this subject. The parents have distinct views on all these points, and it is because I believe that in some cases, I hope not in many, there are parents who have just cause to complain of the teaching and religious influences brought to bear on the school, that I think some Clause like this is absolutely necessary. I confess I should prefer the Kenyon-Slaney Clause as proposed in the other

House, and as very properly corrected and improved by the Amendments we have already carried. I should like to ask the noble and learned Lord where in this proviso the words "or other denominational authority" will come.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: They will come after "superior ecclesiastical," and the proviso will then read—

"... any provision in a trust deed for reference to the Bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority."

*EARL SPENCER: I prefer the simpler and plainer form of the Clause, which expressed exactly the meaning of its mover and supporters in another place. I shall, therefore, when the proposal is put, say "Not Content."

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM, who had given notice of his intention to move the insertion, after "manager" in line 10, of the words, "who shall recognise the duty of the clergyman or minister of the Church or denomination to which the school belongs to give such instruction," said: We have to express our gratitude and thanks to the Clergy of this country for the hard work they have done and the many sacrifices they have made for the maintenance of the voluntary schools. It has been acknowledged that the reason for this Clause is that a few clergymen have exceeded their province, have allowed their zeal to outrun their discretion, and have been guilty of certain practices contrary to the principles of the Church of England. By this Clause, therefore, you are punishing the whole body of the clergy for the shortcomings of the few. Indiscriminate censure is eminently unjust. That is the main reason for our strong opposition to the Clause. I do not think we can speak too highly of the work of the clergy, and I was anxious by my Amendment to secure to them their right of giving religious instruction to the children in the schools. I did not intend to interfere with the Clause as it stood, but to add certain words to effect my object. As the Amendment of the Lord Chancellor has been carried, my Amendment would not now fit in, but if the Duke of Northumberland proceeds with his proposal mine will be unnecessary. I do desire, however, to add my voice to the protest against there being added to the Bill a Clause which may lead to great difficulty and dissension hereafter, but which I hope the proviso of the noble and learned Lord will in some respects mitigate.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, in moving the insertion of a proviso that any person having under the trust deed duties in respect of the religious instruction should not be prevented from discharging those duties except with the consent of the recognised authorities of the denomination to which the school belonged, said: Your Lordships heard, no doubt, with great satisfaction the words which fell from the Lord Chancellor in praise of the clergy, but I cannot help agreeing with part, at least, of what fell from my noble friends Viscount Halifax and Lord Robertson when they declared that the position of the clergy of the Established Church had been lowered by this Bill. I could not help being reminded, while the Lord Chancellor was speaking, of the well-worn adage —"You may have been right to dissemble your love, but why did you kick me downstairs?" What the noble Viscount said with regard to the position of the country clergyman—that he is the personer of the parish, that he occupies a position in teaching and in general authority which is unique in a certain sense—is true, and it is also true that by this Bill you have lowered that position. By this measure you have made this curious assertion, that while such a clergyman is fit to administer the sacraments, to preach to the congregation, to comfort the sick and the dying, he is unfit to educate your children unless he is supervised by a body of managers, with or without an appeal. I cannot help regarding this Clause as one of the most serious steps towards the disestablishment of the Church which has been taken for many years. I do not understand the attitude of the Church of England in this matter. I could have understood it if the Church had been prepared to stand by her position, which, I assume, she believes to be a just one, and refused for any advantage she may get from the rates or other sources to sacrifice the station she has so long occupied in connection with this country. But she has not done so. It is not for me to attempt to unravel the mystery. The fact remains that this is a serious stigma on the clergy, which I trust, in moving this Amendment, I shall do something to remove. I confess I have not gone very far, but I have done what I could to secure that the person entrusted by the trust deed with the duty of giving the religious instruction should not be displaced from that position except by the proper ecclesiastical authority, and not merely by the direct or indirect intervention of any other people or class whatsoever. I entirely endorse what has been said with regard to the impossibility of confining the direction to any party denomination. I do not know whether that confession is not an admission that the Church of England no longer occupies the position in connection with the State which formerly she did. It used not to be impossible to legislate for the Church of England, as an established and State Church, upon a totally different footing from any other denomination; but if that day is past, and past by the general acquiescence of all sides, I accept the situation. bring forward this Motion, not by any means as a heroic measure, but merely as a small instalment of justice. I cannot imagine what possible objection there can be to it on the part of the Government, and I trust your Lordships will support it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, after 'managers' insert 'provided always that any persons having under the trust deeds duties in respect of the religious instruction, shall not be prevented from discharging such duties except with the consent of the recognised authorities of the denomination to which the school belongs.'" (*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON: I rise to second the Amendment proposed by the noble Duke, and in doing so I should like to explain on, behalf of myself, and I think of many of my right rev. brethren, why we did not support the other Amendments which have been moved. In the first place, having ourselves in Convocation invited two extra men to be put on, it seemed inconsistent not to allow them to be on in any way at all. We, therefore, could not support the Amendment touching that matter. In regard to the Amendment giving the right of appeal to the foundation managers only, that again seemed unjust, and it is a positive relief to reach an Amendment which I can support with all my heart. I shall speak for only a few minutes, but I do want your Lordships to listen to the most earnest plea I can possibly make. You have no conception of how the clergy themselves feel in regard to this matter. I have received hundreds of letters from all parts of the country on the subject. If you had been with me yesterday as I went with a clergyman to his schools in one of the poorest parishes of London, you would have seen what the right of superintendence and entry into those schools meant to him. As was said by Viscount Goschen at an earlier stage of our proceedings, it was the one bright spot in the clergyman's parish. In the first place, the right of superintendence, subject to appeal, is given by the trust deed; in the second place, it is right and natural that he should have it; and, in the third place, I venture to think that the influence of the kindly, educated man moving about among the children has been the soul of the school for years. That influence has been an untold benefit to hundreds of thousands of children in England; and yet this superintendence and right of entry are being taken away by this Bill. The clergy of the diocese of Manchester have made an appeal in a sense different from that in which the right rev. Prelate spoke; they say that a Church Discipline Bill ought not to come in the guise of an Education Bill; and the communications I have had from different parts of the country lead me to suppose that the feeling is equally strong throughout the kingdom. It should be noticed that the noble Duke, in this Amendment, does not propose to do away with the Kenyon-Slaney Clause; he simply desires to safeguard that which the clergy value most. Speeches have been made as though it were only on questions of ritual that the right of superintendence on the part of the clergy was in danger. I was speaking to one of the most popular clergy in London the other day, a man almost adored by the laity, and he said that down in his country parish he would certainly be excluded from his school because of the unpopularity of his teetotal principles. Let me turn for a moment to the objections which may be urged against this Amendment. It in no way contradicts the proviso already passed by the House. It might be said that we were restoring the one-man management. To allow the right of entry and superintendence, subject to appeal, is a totally different thing from allowing the clergyman to manage the whole thing himself. None of us on this Bench desire to have one-man management restored. Then it may be said that we allow members of the Government and others to make speeches in which the effect of this Clause was implied, and made no protest. All I can say is that when I heard or read those speeches it never passed my mind that it went so far as to exclude the clergyman from his school. When it is urged that in our Houses of Convocation we ourselves asked that two managers should come in, as the mover of the motion I can say that it never occurred to me that those two managers should have any voice in turning the clergyman out of the school of his parish. Then it has been urged that we desire to allow the clergyman to ride roughshod over the feelings of the people in matters of ritual. That has already been safeguarded, and on behalf of the members of the Episcopal Bench I may say that if any complaint on that matter is made to us there is no sort of doubt as to the verdict we should give. I want your Lordships to look at this question without prejudice, not from a Party point of view, but from the point of view of right. We desire to preserve to the clergyman the one thing he most loves in the whole of his work. I have worked in the slums of London for years, and I speak with knowledge of what it is to the poor clergyman to have this priceless privilege to his hand. I urge most earnestly your Lordships to pass the Amendment, assuring you that by so doing, while it may not satisfy all, you would take away the bitterness of spirit which, although we should urge the clergy to make the best of the Bill, would go far towards spoiling the work of the measure.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: I have listened with great attention to the speech of the right rev. Prelate, but I missed from it the one declaration which might have induced your Lordships seriously to consider the Amendment proposed by the noble Duke. It has been said on both sides of the House that this sub-Section and the acceptance it had received had been inspired by no distrust of the clergy as a whole. If it has been inspired by any feeling of distrust, I am afraid I must say it is inspired by distrust, not of the willingness, but of the power, of the Episcopal Bench to restrain certain of their clergy from excesses which we all deplore. If it had been in the power of the right rev. Prelate to assure your Lordships that the Bishops were prepared to undertake that their consent and that of the recognised authorities of the Church would not be given to any clergyman who gave instruction of a character distasteful to, and contrary to the opinions and feelings of, the large body of their parishioners, there might have been a reason for recommending your Lordships to accept this Amendment. But the right rev. Prelate carefully abstained from giving any such undertaking on the part either of himself or of his rev. brethren. When we do not believe that in a great many cases the Bishop of the diocese would be able to exercise that restraint over the proceedings of some of his clergy whom this Clause is intended to restrain, I think your Lordships and the other House would feel it extremely to accept an Amendment which so materially alters the Clause. It has been said over and over again that, while we are perfectly willing and desire that the appeal to the Bishops should remain for the purpose of defining what is or what is not contrary to the doctrines of the Church, the intention of the Clause has been openly and avowedly to transfer from the clergyman alone to the managers, amongst whom he ought to exercise a predominant influence, the control and administration of religious teaching. I do not think it would be in consonance with the pledges which have been given on this part of the subject, to accept this modification.

The LORD BISHOP of DURHAM: I am anxious to associate myself with the appeal which has been made in favour of the Amendment. The course of the discussion has in many respects been instructive on the all-important point of lay opinion as it is represented in this

House. I am sure the clergy are not likely to forget the lesson that has been taught us as regards the anxiety with which the vast majority of the laity look upon disturbances and eccentricities in our Orders. Above all, I think it is manifest that it was widely felt to be unfair to use the parochial schools for the inculcation of doctrines in reference to which there are acute differences within the Church of England itself. In spite of this, I cannot in silence allow the claim of the vast majority of the parochial clergy as I know them to be thus dealt with—that they should be left, without appeal, to be excluded by a vote of their own parishioners from their own schools. I do not mean by that that laymen should not be consulted on questions of Christian doctrine, but I doubt whether a board of laymen so constituted are competent, without appeal, to decide upon the pastor's proper place in relation to his school.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: I think the noble Duke in charge of the Bill gave, on the whole, a very sympathetic reply to the principle which underlies the proposition of the Bishop of London, and I believe the right rev. Prelate and the noble Duke are not far apart. The noble Duke asked for a declaration on the part of the Episcopal Bench that they intended to carry out the spirit of the Amendment of the Lord Chancellor, and that if appeals were made to them they would decide them in the practical sense the noble Duke desired. I believe I am right in saying that the language of the Episcopal Bench throughout the course of these deliberations points to the conclusion that they are with the great majority of the House and of the country in desiring to put down those excesses which, if they were a cause of regret before, will be a cause of yet deeper regret to all Churchmen after the passing of this Bill, looking to the fact that to them is due what I must call the disestablishment of the parochial clergy, and as the instructors in religious education in their schools. We may rely upon the Bishops that they will do their utmost, in the interests of the Church as well as in the interests of education and of peace, to decide these appeals entirely in the sense indicated by the House in the adoption of the Lord Chancellor's Amendment. If that is so, I might almost claim the support of the Government for the proposal which has been made. I will not dilate upon the subject at this late hour; I desire only to put what is perhaps a new view of the case before your Lordships. It is admitted, I believe, that there are cranks amongst laymen as well as amongst clergymen, and it is perfectly possible that in a certain number of cases—perhaps not less numerous than the cases of the excesses against which we hear so much—the lay managers will take what would generally be considered an inequitable view of the religious education in the school. The clergyman will appeal to the Bishop, and the Bishop may decide in favor of the clergyman, who will then go back to the managers, and say, "Here is the decision of the Bishop in my favour." But we must remember that the managers are to have the entire control of everything except the decision on points of doctrine, including the question of by whom the religious education is to be given. Consequently, if the clergyman goes back to the managers with the Bishop's decision in his favour, the managers will still be able to carry out their view by deciding that the clergyman, although in the view of the Bishop he has been teaching proper doctrine, is no longer to conduct the religious education in the school. In other words, unless you adopt some such Amendment as that now proposed, I do not see that there is much value in the appeal to the bishop, so far as it is any protection to the clergyman. The managers will practically have the power of appointing whatever teacher they like for religious as well as for secular education. Their control is so absolute that unless you safeguard the appeal as I suggest, and as is proposed by the Amendment, it appears to me that the appeal itself is in danger in the sense that it may not be equitably accepted by the managers. I will venture to put one further consideration only before your Lordships. We have been assured on high authority that the first duty of a Liberal Government will be to change the management and to give more effective popular control. In that case, this protection, if the Amendment were adopted, would still exist, and would be invaluable. I admit that I do not think the Church has much chance of maintaining a majority amongst managers beyond the next General Election, but there would possibly be a security, which even noble Lords opposite would not care to attack. If in the case of a clergyman who was in the right according to the doctrines of the Church of England the trust deed was not to be over-ridden, but would still remain in force, giving the clergyman who teaches the doctrine of the Church of England, and is not guilty of excesses, the right contained in that trust deed, under which the school has been founded, endowed, and carried on up to the present. I trust the Government will consider this Amendment in a sympathetic spirit. It contains, I believe, the minimum of controversial matter, because I am sure most noble Lords would wish that if an appeal has been made and decided in favour of the clergyman, it should not be used as an engine by which the clergyman might be dispossessed of the right and the duty he has hitherto enjoyed.

*The LORD BISHOP of WINCHESTER: I should not have intervened in this debate, least of all when the hands of the clock point to the hour of midnight, but for the remark made by the noble Duke as to the absence of a declaration on the part of the Bishops, which might have induced the Government favourably to consider the Amendment. I have no hesitation in answering that appeal. The noble Duke may rely upon it—I suppose he would not expect a formal document—that if legitimate opposition were made in a parish to a clergyman because of his real unfitness, for whatever reason, to carry on the work of teaching in the schools, the Bishops would support the managers. I hope that declaration, which is exactly what we understand him to desiderate, may cause the noble Duke favourably to consider the Amendment. I believe that such appeals would be few indeed. It is an utter misrepresentation of our attitude to say that we distrust the laity, and expect such things to happen every day. We expect nothing of the kind. We believe there may be exceptional cases here and there, that incalculable hardship may be inflicted in those cases, and that the clergy ought to be safeguarded against it. We have no fear of natural and legitimate opposition to the action of the clergy in carrying on, as heretofore, their labour of love in the teaching of religion in Church schools; the cases are exceedingly rare in which such opposition would be probable or would have the slightest chance of receiving popular approval in the parish.

But, my Lords, we have something to fear now from an unexpected source. The position has somewhat changed within the last few days. The Nonconformists of England have received encouragement to endeavour to make this Bill unworkable, and the encouragement has come from high quarters. Is it inconceivable that men will be found to take seats on the board of management in order to carry out the task which has been laid upon them by such high political authority? I welcome the presence of Noncomformists on our managing bodies. I believe they will do us good in a score of ways; but I ask that they should come thither with an honest intention of endeavouring to make the Bill work well, and not of endeavouring to make it work ill. We have been told that it is now too late to suggest this Amendment, and that we ought to have spoken last summer if we were to speak at all. It is true that the whole question of the appeal which exists under our trust deeds was simply overlooked, but we are all—clergy and laity, members of the Government and of the Opposition, Members of Parliament and members of the Episcopal Bench—in the same boat. When this subject was discussed in the summer, no single person on either side alluded to the question of the exclusion of the clergyman from the school as likely to come up under this Bill. No doubt we Bishops were to blame—and I, for one, accept a full share of blame—for not seeing that this peril lay behind. But if it be true that a mistake was made so many months ago in that matter, is that any reason why it should not be set right by the acceptance of the Amendment before the House?

The LORD BISHOP of SALISBURY: As the Bishop of a Diocese I entirely associate myself with the Bishop of Winchester in this matter, and I believe the Bishop of London gave utterance to the same sentiment.

The LORD BISHOP of LONDON: I can give the same assurance.

Viscount GOSCHEN: Would the noble Duke say whether these declarations have had any effect on his decision?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I cannot say that the declarations that have been made from the Episcopal Bench are sufficiently explicit to enable me to accept the Amendment. I do not doubt that many, probably most, of the members of the right rev. Bench, greatly deplore the excesses which are said to exist in some of the schools. The doubt that we entertain is as to the power of the right rev. Bench to exercise a proper control and restraint over these clergymen, some of whose proceedings they may deplore. If they have this power, why has it not been exercised before? These cases which we have in our minds have taken place in schools under trust deeds securing a right of appeal to the Bishop, but have any of your Lordships ever heard of the proceedings of an indiscreet clergyman in the school being restrained by the Episcopal authorities? No doubt they deplored the practices, but it is easy to see that a Bishop must find his relations with a considerable body of his clergy greatly strained if he attempted to exercise the authority required in such cases. I cannot understand why it should be found more easy for the right rev. Bench in future to exercise the necessary control over their clergy in this respect than it has been in the past, and therefore, in the absence of more explicit assurances than the Government have yet received, I feel it impossible to accept the Amendment.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY: May I ask whether the noble Duke has considered the last words of the Amendment—"should not be prevented from discharging such duties except with the consent of the recognised authorities of the denomination to which the school belongs?" At present, we Bishops have no power to turn a schoolmaster out of his school, but the managers, with our consent, will be able to do so under this Amendment. In the case of an extremely foolish, mismanaging clergyman, such as has been supposed, the managers would demand his dismissal, and we should consent to it. Therefore, we have not the power now which we should have under this Clause.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: I venture to say that the urgency of this matter is such that, even at this hour, we must plead for a further word of reply from the noble Duke. He has pointed to the conduct of the Bishops in the past as justifying in some degree the rejection of this Amendment. I wish to point out how entirely different this case is from some, at any rate, of the cases to which the noble Duke was probably referring. With regard to the schools, would it not be necessary to find a case in which an appeal had been made against the conduct of a clergyman in a school, and had been either neglected or dismissed by the Bishop? I will not say that no such case exists; a universal negative is exceedingly difficult; but even if one or two could be found, I do not conceive that the noble Duke would desire to found on them a policy against which could be brought opinions so weighty and reasons so serious as have been voiced tonight. I imagine that the scope of his objection is really wider than that. He is probably thinking of the general attitude of the Episcopate towards certain developments or eccentricities in the Church. I do not want to go into that large subject; I think that possibly some of the criticisms upon the laxity of the Episcopate must themselves be more open to criticism than is sometimes assumed. The policy of restraint is not quite so easy as some people imagine. But I want to point out the very clear difference that exists between the case of the schools and cases of a more purely ecclesiastical kind. In ordinary Church matters, the Bishop, if he takes action, has to take action touching the question—and can there be any question from any point of view more difficult?—of the religious limits of the Church of England and its law. In the matter under discussion you have a much narrower question to decide. You have to decide—or, in my judgment, it is what you ought to have to decide—whether, in a school consisting of young children, perhaps in many cases the only public school in the district, and which, therefore, is sure to contain the children of Churchmen of all shades of opinion, and also children of Nonconformists, doctrines or practices of an accentuated, extreme, or peculiar kind are to be allowed. I should have thought that that was a question on which a Bishop, without any great or excessive measure of administrative sagacity or wisdom, might easily give a decision in which he would be backed up by general consent. In the other case, besides the difficulty of the question to be decided upon, there is the extreme difficulty of the procedure by which ecclesiastical law can be enforced. Is there any parallel to that in the case of the schools? Surely not. Your lay managers, vested by this Bill with full control of the school, go to the Bishop and ask for his practical decision on this practical question; they get that decision, which in this case would restrain the clergyman, and they have in their own hands the simplest possible power of enforcing it. I venture to put it to the noble Duke whether, under these circumstances, considering by whom among the lay Peers that opinion has been backed up, there is not the plainest evidence that this is not asked for merely in the interest of any small or extreme party of the Church of England, and that it is not intended to be used in any spirit of hostility to the body of the laity or to Nonconformists at large. I fully acknowledge what has been done in the Bill to acknowledge the principles of the Church. I do not forget that the clergyman is a manager, and, where the trust deed requires it, *ex-officio* chairman of the managers. I do not think any of us regret that the clergyman's monarchy in his school is to be an extremely constitutional monarchy. We regard with gratitude the justice the Government have done to denominationalists; I do not regret that they have asked us to give the representative of the public authority, not necessarily, but very likely, a Nonconformist, an opportunity to sit with us, to see what we do, to hear how we intend to deal with religious instruction, giving his views on the matter, criticising our proposals, and so forth; but I do regret that His Majesty's Government, not, I believe, at the dictates of their own judgment, but in consequence of the pressure of certain currents of opinion in the House of Commons, has been induced to insert such a Clause as that to which we object. I ask whether it is not possible, even now, to recognise that the particular modification for which we ask in this Amendment is a reasonable modification? The Government started out to do justice to the claims of denominationalists, not of the Church of England only, though very largely hers; we recognise that in the main they have succeeded in their task. Is it not piteous that the result of their labour should be thus marred, and that while their opponents still adhere to their attitude of bitter antagonism towards the Bill, they should insist on spoiling the allegiance and gratitude of those whose grievances they had undertaken to meet, simply to enter upon a side issue, and comply with a passing current of temporary opinions?

*THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON: I think there is one aspect of the question which has not yet been considered. By the vote of your Lordships' House, a great responsibility has been put into the hands of the Bishops. If an appeal is made to us, we have to decide on important questions of doctrine. Suppose our decision is given, is it not almost necessary that you should give us some power by which that opinion can be enforced? It seems to me that the Amendment of the Duke of Northumberland is precisely calculated to supplement the appeal which has been given. I ask whether you are putting the Episcopal Bench in quite a fair position when you throw a responsibility upon them on the one hand, and scarcely give them the power of carrying out the responsibility on the other?

On Question, "That those words be there inserted," their Lordships divided. —Contents, 65; Not-Contents, 96.

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Nelson, E.
Romney, E.
Sandwich, E.
Shaftesbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Yarborough, E.

Falkland, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Knutsford, V.
Llandaff, V.
Ridley, V.

Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Chester, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Ely, L. Bp.
Lichfield, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Newcastle, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
Ripon, L. Bp.
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Addington, L.

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Colchester, L.
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Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
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Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
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Lansdowne, M.
Winchester, M.
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Camperdown, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
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Derby, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
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Ilchester, E.
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Mayo, E.
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Cross, V.
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Manchester, L. Bp.

Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Boston, L.
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Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Chelmsford, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Coleridge, L.
Congleton, L.
Davey, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
Denman, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Ellenborough, L.
Elphinstone, L.
Farrer, L.
Forester, L.
Glanusk, L.
Glenesk, L.
Hylton, L.
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Sandhurst, L.
Seaton, L.
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Suffield, L.
Tredegar, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Welby, L.
Wenlock, L.
Wimborne, L.
Windsor, L.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK: As the hour is so late I will formally move that sub-Section 5 of Clause 7 be omitted from the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"To omit sub-Section 5."—(*The Duke of Norfolk*).

THE EARL OF MORLEY: It is somewhat irregular to put a sub-Section separately; it is usual to put the Clause as a whole; but the present condition of things is rather remarkable, and I propose, with the assent of the House, to pu the sub-Section as amended.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK: I am merely moving that which is in my name on the Paper, and which, I presume, is in order.

On Question, "That sub-Section 5, as amended, stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided.—Contents, 114; Not-Contents, 25.

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Camden, M.
Cholmondeley, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.

Winchester, M.
Zetland, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Bathurst, E.
Camperdown, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Derby, E.
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Hardwicke, E.
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Lathom, E.
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Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
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Cross, V.
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Hardinge, V.
Knutsford, V.
Ridley, V.
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Chichester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Ely, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
Manchester, L. Bp.
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Addington, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Brassey, L.
Braye, L.
Burghclere, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Colchester, L.
Congleton, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Davey, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
Denman, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
Dunboyne, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Ellenborough, L.
Elphinstone, L.
Farrer, L.
Forester, L.
Glanusk, L.
Glenesk, L.
Hatherton, L.
Hylton, L.
Iveagh, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Ludlow, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Monkswell, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Muncaster, L.
Penrhyn, L.
Reay, L.
Redesdale, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rowton, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Seaton, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Suffield, L.
Tredegar, L.
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Welby, L.
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Northumberland, D.

Abingdon, E.
Feversham, E.
Nelson, E.
Shaftesbury, E. [*Teller.*]

Halifax, V.
Llandaff, V.

London, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
Rochester, L. Bp.

Botreaux, (*E. Loudoun.*)
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
De Freyne, L.
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Herries, L.
Howard of Glossop, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
O'Brien, L.
Robertson, L.
Stanmore, L.
Teynham, L.
Vaux of Harrowden, L.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: In moving that this Committee be adjourned, I may say that we propose that the House should meet tomorrow at three o'clock to continue the discussion on the Education Bill, with an adjournment between eight and nine o'clock if necessary. I am afraid it will be necessary for me to ask the House to meet on Saturday at twelve o'clock for the Report stage of the Bill, as the Report stage could hardly be of any value without an interval of one day for the consideration of the Amendments. On Friday we shall take the Second Reading of the London Water Bill, and the Third Reading of the Education Bill on Monday.

EARL SPENCER: As far as we on this side are concerned, we are ready to agree to the arrangement for a Saturday sitting.

Resumed; and to be again in Commiteee Tomorrow.

LONDON WATER BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next. (*The Lord Balfour.*) (No 193.)

House adjourned at ten minutes before One o'clock a.m. till half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 10th December, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (WATER AND GENERAL) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Read a second time; to be considered upon Friday.

PETITIONS.

CANADIAN CATTLE (IMPORTATION).

Petitions for abolition of restrictions: from Penicuik; and Juniper Green; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Aberdeen, against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Juniper Green, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

LIFEBOAT SERVICE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Petition from Manchester, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN TRADE.

Petitions for legislation; from Penicuik; and Juniper Green; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SPIRITS (ABERDEEN, ELGIN AND INVERNESS).

Returns [presented 9th December]; to be printed. [No. 390.]

OSBORNE ESTATE.

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by His Majesty to consider the disposition of His Majesty's Osborne Estate in the Isle of Wight [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVAL AND MARINE TRAINING.

Copy presented, of scheme dealing with the entry and training of Naval and Marine officers and men of the Royal Navy [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Papers laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House—

1. Adjournment Motions under Standing Order No. 17.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed. [No. 391.]

2. Closure of Debate (Standing Order No. 25).—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed. [No. 392.]

3. Divisions of the House.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

4. Public Bills.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

5. Public Petitions.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

6. Select Committees.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

7. Sittings of the House.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

8. Business of the House (Days occupied by Government and by Private Members).—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed. [No. 393.]

9. Private Bills and Private Business.—Return relative thereto [ordered 9th December, Mr. Caldwell]; to be printed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Irish, Scottish and English Postmasterships.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Postmaster General whether he will give the number of vacant postmasterships in Ireland that have been filled by officials drawn from England and Scotland during the past three years, the offices to which the appointments were made, and the emoluments attached to them; and whether he will also give the number of vacant postmasterships in England and Scotland that have been filled by officials drawn from Ireland during the same period, the names of the offices to which they have been appointed, and the emoluments attached to them.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Twelve postmasterships in Ireland (including one twice vacant) have been filled by officials drawn from England and Scotland during the past three years. The names of the offices and the salaries attached to them are as follows:—Abbeyleix, £115; Kilmallock (filled twice in the three years), £140; Londonderry, £440; Youghal, £125; Kilrush, £110; Buttevant, £100; Roscrea, £180; Lisburn, £200; Kingstown, £240; Newbridge, £130; Dundalk, £280; Limerick, £480. One postmastership in England has been filled by an officer drawn from Ireland during the same period, viz., Towcester, salary £150. No officer from Ireland was appointed to a postmastership in Scotland during the period named.

Postal Circulation of Lottery Circulars.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that German lottery circulars are being distributed through the post in unclosed wrappers and envelopes; and if he can say what steps are being taken to prevent this distribution.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) German lottery circulars in open covers have lately been sent to this country from the Continent in considerable numbers, and all those which have been observed have been stopped. Foreign postal administrations have already been informed that such circulars are prohibited by law in this country. It is, of course, not possible to examine every open cover passing through the post, but if any lottery circulars in open covers have been delivered it is only because they have escaped detection.

Indian Traders in the Transvaal.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he will give the purport of the communication to the Pretoria Chamber of Commerce regarding the location of Indian traders.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) No such communication as the hon. Member refers to has been received at the Colonial Office.

Historical Manuscripts Commission—Bishop of Galway's MSS.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he would draw the attention of the Historical Manuscripts Commission to the manuscripts at the residence and in the charge of the Bishop of Galway; and if he would endeavour to have a selection of these writings printed.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) The Historical Manuscripts Commissioners have already been in communication with the Galway Archæological Historical Society on the subject of the manuscripts referred to, and it is hoped that in due course a Report will be made upon them.

Customs Officers—Pay and Promotion.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, seeing that landing officers and watchers in the Customs Department receive extra pay for Sunday duty while waterguard officers do not, he will consider the desirability of putting waterguard officers in this respect on the same footing as landing officers, watchers, and other classes of civil servants; and, considering the number of commissioned boatmen who under the present regulations reach the rank of preventive officer, can he see his way to throw open to those of approved service and qualification a certain number of the vacancies in the rank of assistant landing officer.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) The character of the various duties of the waterguard renders it imperative to have officers in attendance on the arrival and departure of vessels at uncertain periods, and it is therefore a condition of the waterguard service that such duties have to be performed at any hour of the day or night or on any day, including Sunday. Candidates for appointment as boatmen are informed in the printed particulars issued that their hours of employment extend over Sundays whenever required, and that the extent of such Sunday employment varies according to local conditions. The Board of Customs, however, endeavour to arrange that the officers should have a free Sunday as frequently as possible. No overtime is allowed, and the men join the Department on that understanding. Boatmen enter the Department under conditions of age and examination which preclude them from qualifying for the rank of assistant.

Tame Stag Hunting with Hounds.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the practice of hunting tame stags by hounds at Maidenhead and Dorking; and whether, having regard to the manner in which this hunting is conducted, he will take steps for its prevention.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I have caused inquiries to be made as to the two cases of which the hon. Member sent me information, and I do not find any evidence of any illegal act. There may be differences of opinion with regard to this class of hunting; but to prohibit it entirely would require legislation which I am not prepared to undertake.

Mullingar Prison.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the county gaol at Mullingar has been closed for general prison purposes for more than twelve months, he will direct the General Prisons Board to hand over these premises to the County Council of Westmeath for the purposes of technical instruction or for the establishment of an inebriates' home or other local purposes, subject to such reservations to the General Prisons Board as were required in the case of the county gaol at Trim on its being handed over to the Boards of Guardians of the County Meath for the purposes of an industrial school.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The prison at Mullingar was closed as a prison on the 31st December, 1901. It is now used as a place of detention for prisoners awaiting trial, and so long as it continues to be so used, the property in and control over the buildings will remain vested in the General Prisons Board. I regret I cannot at present hold out any hope that the buildings, or any portion of them, will be surrendered to the local authorities.

Army—Paid Pensioner Recruiters.

COLONEL WELBY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to improve the position of paid pensioner recruiters as regards pay or lodging and ration allowances; whether he can see his way to giving them a smarter dress to help in attracting recruits; and whether, considering the service done by them in procuring recruits during the late war, some medal or decoration can be given them, and their services as recruiters allowed to reckon towards an increase of pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The emoluments of pensioner recruiters have been recently increased in several respects, viz., a nightly allowance of 2s. when absent for short periods on duty, free medical attendance at out stations, travelling expenses on appointment, including those of their families, and free conveyance for a certain quantity of baggage. Lighter clothing to wear in the summer months has been granted to them. It is not proposed to grant any medal or decoration for their services during the war; they have gained material advantages by the increased recruiting. Their service does not count towards increased pension as it is not military service.

Volunteers—Transport Supply.

*MR. KEMP (Lancashire, Heywood): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state what progress has been made in supplying transport to Volunteer regiments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Under existing arrangements each Volunteer corps is requested in time of peace to make arrangements for the supply of transport in the event of mobilisation for Home defence, and I am informed that in the large majority of cases the arrangements have been completed.

Volunteer Statistics.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War will he state the number of the Volunteer recruits during each of the twelve months ending 30th September last, and of the Volunteers resigning or struck off the rolls during the same periods, with the total numbers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick*.) The hon. Member has been already informed that the Returns giving these details are not rendered monthly but quarterly; the figures for each quarter of the twelve months ending 30th September are as follows—

	To 31st December, 1901.	To 30th April, 1902.	To 30th June, 1902.	To 30th September, 1902.
Total Increase	8,472	22,075	13,014	9,029
Total Decrease	26,616	27,088	13,226	7,967

Dublin Ordnance Department—Labourers' Wages.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will say what decision has been arrived at on the application from the labourers employed in the Ordnance Department, Dublin, for an increase in their wages, so as to bring it up to the standard paid to labourers in that district; and whether, seeing that a Departmental Order lays it down that labourers and others are to receive the market rate of pay of the district, and in view of the nature of their work, he will take such steps as will bring their wages up to the standard.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) From the information at the disposal of the War Department it does not appear that the labourers in question are underpaid, and accordingly no increase is contemplated.

Under-age Enlistment—F. Frost, Garrison Artillery.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Francis Frost, who enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery on the 10th November 1902, against his parents' wishes, he being under eighteen years of age, and to the fact that his parents' application that he should return home has been refused; and whether, in view of this man's parents' state of health and circumstances, he can see his way to give orders for his discharge at once.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This matter rests entirely with the General Officer Commanding the District, to whom I would suggest that any communications on the subject should be addressed.

2nd Battalion, Sussex Regiment—Quartering on Return Home.

Mr. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state when the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment is due to arrive from India; and if, after service in a hot climate, it is to be quartered at Shorncliffe, and in buildings of galvanized iron; and if he will consider the possibility of quartering regiments returning from service in hot countries in barracks and at stations not involving such changes of temperature, and consequent discomfort to all ranks.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment is due to arrive in England tomorrow. It is to be quartered at Shorncliffe as affording the nearest available accommodation to its territorial district. The allotment of the particular barrack is in the hands of the local General Officer Commanding. There are three infantry barracks at Shorncliffe, two of brick, and one of very good hutments of galvanised iron lined with wood.

Channel Islands Militia.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that the States (Channel Islands) have declined to accede to the War Office request to provide 1,800 Militiamen, instead of 1,000 as hitherto, and declined to bind themselves to subject the Militia to be under canvas for the time stipulated by the War Office, he will state what steps he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No official representation of the nature alluded to has reached the War Office, and I am therefore not prepared to make any statement on the subject.

Surveyors of Taxes—Extra Clerical Assistance.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, if, having regard to the answer given by his predecessor to the hon. Member for North-West Sussex, on 2nd March 1899†, any provision has been made, or is being made, to meet the pressure of work in the offices of the surveyors of taxes caused by the increased rate of income tax and consequent increase in claims for exemption and abatement; and whether any extra clerical assistance has yet been given, or is contemplated, to meet the further pressure caused by the forthcoming quinquennial revaluation under Schedules A and B.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) The answer to both parts of the Question is in the affirmative. Since March, 1899, the established staff has been increased by fourteen surveyors and twenty-five assistant surveyors, and a further increase has been sanctioned as from the 1st April, 1903, of thirteen surveyors. The number of clerks has been increased by eighty-one since 1899, and a further increase of nineteen has been sanctioned from the 1st April, 1903. The work of the quinquennial assessment will next year be executed on a new system, which will spread the work over a longer period. Some of the work has, in fact, already been done. An addition of about £9,000 has been sanctioned to the outlay for extra clerical assistance hitherto expended at this period.

Ministries of Commerce—Practice of Foreign Countries.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will grant a Return showing the manner in which trade and commerce is administered in the principal countries of the world, and the powers conferred on the Minister of Commerce by those countries which possess such a Minister.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) I would refer my hon. friend to the Paper laid in 1889, entitled Reports on the Constitution and Functions of Ministries of Commerce or analogous branches of Foreign Administrations. If this is not sufficient, perhaps he will put a further Question.

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Army—Special Recruits.

MR. KEMP (Lancashire, Heywood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the number of specials recruited since 1st January, 1902.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): Up to 29th November 7,891 specials have been recruited.

Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa.

MR. KEMP: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many of the 1902 Imperial Yeomanry are still in South Africa; and if he can say on what date these regiments will be finally disbanded.

LORD STANLEY: There are at present about 1,500 Imperial Yeomen in South Africa. They will be discharged on completing a year's service from date of enlistment, unless they elect to take their discharges earlier, which they are absolutely free to do.

Mounted Infantry.

MR. KEMP: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Mounted Infantry Companies are to be retained as such, or to be returned to their regiments.

LORD STANLEY: A considerable number of Mounted Infantry Companies are still employed in South Africa. Mounted Infantry are being trained at home by passing as many Infantry men as possible through the training schools, returning them to their units when trained.

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† See (4) *Debates*, lxvii., 1016.

1st Inniskilling Fusiliers—Return Home.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will explain why the 1st Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers has been detained in Africa, notwithstanding their services and losses and the fact that the regiment served during the whole campaign in South Africa, seeing that the Brigade of Guards has been brought home.

LORD STANLEY: Will the hon. Member kindly refer to my reply to a similar question put by the hon. Member for Midlothian on the 27th ultimo ?†

1st and 2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers—English and Irish Officers.

DR. THOMPSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will explain why two officers from English regiments were appointed to the command of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers over the heads of the officers of the regiment who had served throughout the whole of the South African campaign, and several of whom were mentioned in despatches and decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal.

LORD STANLEY: These two officers were appointed during the campaign to fill the places of an officer who had been killed in action and an officer who had been appointed to the staff at the time when the Senior Major was about to retire, the next senior had just been killed in action, and the two next had not qualified for promotion.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): Was it not the case that the Irish officers were killed, and the English officers got the rewards?

(No answer was returned.)

Venezuela—Anglo-German Naval Action.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the claims against the Venezuelan Government, which have necessitated the despatch of warships and have brought about joint action on the part of the British and German Governments, are private traders' claims; and whether there is any precedent for the course taken in order to secure the payment of debts due to private individuals.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The nature of the British claims on Venezuela, which have necessitated resort to coercive measures, will be fully disclosed in the Papers on the subject, which will be laid before Parliament. The claims in question include, amongst other matters, demands for compensation on account of unjustifiable interference with British trading vessels, for imprisonment and ill-treatment of British subjects, and seizure and destruction of British property, and for damage to railway lines, rolling stock, etc., the property of British companies. I believe that there is ample precedent for the enforcement, by active measures, of claims analogous to those which I have mentioned.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information, in addition to that in the newspapers, in regard to the position of things in Venezuela.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I do not know that I have very much to add. The House is aware that it became necessary for His Majesty's Government and the German Government to present an Ultimatum to the Government of Venezuela, and some details of the claims contained in that Ultimatum I have already given. Thereupon our Minister was ordered to remain twenty-four hours at Caracas, and failing a reply from the Venezuelan Government to go down to La Guaira and wait on board one of His Majesty's ships for twenty-four hours more. This he did. Both those periods were exhausted at 7 o'clock last night; and unless in the meantime some concession has been received from the Government of Venezuela, His Majesty's ships will undertake forcible action. We have not yet received any information that that forcible action had been carried into effect. As soon as we receive it I shall be only too glad to give the information to the House.

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†See preceding volume, page 616.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Is the statement in the newspapers untrue that we have seized eight ships, and that the Venezuelans have seized 200 British and German subjects?

*LORD CRANBORNE: We have no information certainly as to the latter part of the question. As to the former part, possibly it may be true; but I cannot give any official information at the present moment.

MR. BRYCE: Can the noble Lord say when Papers will be laid?

*LORD CRANBORNE: I cannot absolutely promise a date, but I can promise the House and the right hon. Gentleman that there shall be no unnecessary delay.

British Trawlers under the Norwegian Flag.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the fact that the Moray Firth was some time since closed against British trawlers for the purpose of scientific research, and that a number of British owned trawlers, by their recent transfer to the Norwegian Flag, are enabled to fish in the Moray Firth, and thus evade the law which, as British trawlers, excluded them from the Firth, will he consider the expediency of communicating with the Signatories to the North Sea Convention, with a view to ascertain whether it is practicable to come to some understanding with the respective Governments, so that areas like the Moray Firth which are closed for scientific research, may be closed against trawlers of every nationality.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The hon. Gentleman put an almost similar question to my right hon. friend the Lord Advocate on December 2nd last. I am afraid I have nothing to add to the reply given to him upon that occasion.†

MR. WEIR: But surely this is a Foreign Office matter?

*LORD CRANBORNE: At any rate, I can add nothing to the answer given by my right hon. friend.

MR. WEIR: Will not the War Office approach the Signatories?

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): How long is this state of affairs to continue? The injustice has been going on for some years, and we have been repeatedly promised that it should cease.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I can only say that the answer of my right hon. friend covers the whole question of the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty.

Notification of Accidents Committee.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Departmental Committee on the Notification of Accidents have yet reported to him; and, if so, whether they have made any recommendation which will have the effect of distinguishing in the statistics of mining accidents between those occurring to male persons under sixteen and under twenty or twenty-one years of age.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have just received the Report of this Committee and will lay it on the Table with a view to its issue to Members as soon as possible. The suggestion of the right hon. Baronet, which was referred by me to the Committee, is dealt with in the Report.

Austro-Hungarian Sugar Cartel.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Austrian raw sugar manufacturers have provisionally decided to continue the arrangement for limiting the amount of sugar placed on the home market; and whether His Majesty's Government propose to take steps for the adoption of countervailing measures against Austrian sugar.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Austro-Hungarian Sugar

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† See preceding volume, page 912.

Cartel is reported to have been removed for twelve months from the beginning of November or until the coming into force of the Sugar Convention, which is fixed for September 1st, 1903. It is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to propose to Parliament measures for countervailing any bounty that may arise from the action of this Cartel between now and the end of August next.

Achnasheen Railway Accident.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that a special train which left Dingwall shortly after noon on Saturday, the 29th November, was derailed between Achnasheen and Garve owing to the breaking of one of the axles of the tender; and will he state whether the accident will be made a subject of a Board of Trade inquiry?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have received a report of this accident, from which it appears that an axle of the tender broke, but the train did not leave the rails. An inquiry by an officer of the Board of Trade hardly appears to be necessary.

Scottish Congested Districts Board.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland will arrange for the next Report of the Congested Districts Board to show detailed accounts of the amount expended by the Board in providing new holdings since its establishment.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The form of accounts prescribed by the Treasury does not admit of this being readily done without a separate analysis of the accounts, but the Secretary for Scotland will consider what can be done to give as nearly as possible the information desired.

Bee-Keeping in the Highlands.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether crofters and others interested in bee-keeping in the congested area have, through the agency of the Congested Districts Board, the advantage of any instruction as to the best methods to be adopted; and, if not, will the Congested Districts Board consider the expediency of adopting the practice in force in Ireland.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Congested Districts Board considered the expediency of the course indicated in the Question of the hon. Member, but such inquiries on the subject as they were able to make did not reveal much encouragement and the proposal was abandoned. But wherever any group of people in a district (or even an energetic man) show an interest in bee-keeping the Congested Districts Board supplies them with all the information they want by books, letters, etc. Instructions are sent out with every hive and the Congested Districts Board are satisfied that these are so clear that little more is needed as to method. A local man with a little enthusiasm is of much more use in a district than any lecturer, and such men the Congested Districts Board is gradually finding out.

Protection of Scottish Fisheries in the Moray Firth.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that H.M.S. "Jackal" is to be employed for purposes of scientific investigation under the direction of the International Research Committee, will he state what vessel will be detailed for the sea police duties on which the "Jackal" has hitherto been engaged?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The cruiser "Minna" has been ordered to replace H.M.S. "Jackal" in the Moray Firth.

Oxford Telegraphists' Grievances.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that in the Oxford Central Post Office certain telegraph clerks, who, at the time of their appointment prior to 1896 were asked to undertake telegraph duties only, are now required to perform postal counter duties also; whether, seeing that in the Oxford Post Office the telegraph and postal departments were separate before 1896, he will take steps to remove this alleged grievance without transferring the clerks in question to other districts.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I went carefully into this question in the month of September last. I then satisfied myself that the arrangements in force at the Oxford Office were necessary for the efficient performance of the work of that office, and that the officers concerned were not unfairly treated. I accordingly caused them to be informed that I was unable to relieve them of the postal counter duties to which they referred in their memorial to me; and that I expected them, in common with all other officers of the Department, to loyally perform the work required of them. I have no doubt that the officers concerned will loyally accept my decision; and it is therefore unnecessary for me to consider what action it might be my duty to take under circumstances which I anticipate will never arise.

Week-End Duties at the Central Office.

Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been called to the fact that certain telegraph sorters in the Central Office, London, are compelled to perform duty in the circulation office from noon to eight p.m. on Fridays, and four a.m. to noon on Saturdays; and whether, seeing that the Tweedmouth Committee recommended that officers should enjoy nine clear unbroken hours at home, exclusive of a reasonable time for the journey from the office to home and back between each duty, he will take steps to alter the duties of these men in accordance with this recommendation.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The shortness of the interval between the two attendances in question is no doubt inconvenient; but I believe it is not generally unpopular, as it admits of the men being free after noon on Saturday. It has been rendered necessary by the exceptional pressure of work on Saturday morning, and I see no other means by which that pressure can be met. The arrangement does not in my opinion conflict with the recommendation of the Tweedmouth Committee.

Improper Use of the Post—American Postal Laws.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that in America the using for an improper purpose of the United States mail service is an offence punishable by heavy legal penalties; and whether he will consider the advisability of seeking similar powers to protect the postal service of the United Kingdom.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am aware that there are many provisions in the Postal Laws of the United States of America for the punishment of offences in relation to the improper use of the post. There are similar, though not identical, provisions in the laws of this country, and I am not prepared to make any proposal for further legislation on the subject at present.

Education Bill—Position of Teachers.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether it would be competent for a local education authority under the Education Bill to make it a condition precedent to the aiding of a non-provided school that any one or more members of the teaching staff should be dismissed, or that their office or offices should be abolished; and, if so, whether such teacher or teachers would be eligible for the compensation to existing officers provided for under Clause 20 of the Second Schedule to the Education Bill.

THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): It is a condition of the maintenance of a non-provided school by the local education authority that the managers should carry out the directions of that authority in respect, among other things, to the number and educational qualifications of the teachers and for the dismissal of any teacher on educational grounds. But the local education authority cannot require managers to break existing contracts, and the teachers in such schools would in any case be entitled to the notice of dismissal which is a term in their contracts of employment. So long as the terms of the contract are observed no case for compensation would arise.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, if, immediately after the coming into operation of the Education Bill, a local education authority issued an order under Clause 7 (i) (a), to the managers of a non-provided school calling for the dismissal of a teacher or for the abolition of that teacher's office, that teacher would be eligible for the compensation to existing officers provided for under Clause 20 of the Second Schedule to the Bill.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The teacher would be entitled to the notice of dismissal provided for in his contract. There is no question of the abolition of an office; the teaching staff of a school must vary from time to time in correspondence with the requirements of the school. If the terms of the contract are observed no case for compensation would arise.

DR. MACNAMARA: Am I to understand that if the position of the voluntary school teacher is worsened by the operation of the Bill, he will not be eligible for the compensation provided under Clause 20?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: There is no question of the voluntary school teacher involved. If he is under a contract with his employer, like the board school teacher, the conditions of the contract will be observed.

DR. MACNAMARA: Then he will not be eligible for compensation?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: If his contract is observed there is no case for compensation.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, if, immediately after the coming into operation of the Education Bill, a local education authority abolished the office of or ordered the dismissal of a teacher in a provided school, such teacher would be eligible for the compensation to existing officers provided for under Clause 20 of the Second Schedule to the Bill.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: What I have said as to the teachers of a non-provided school applies equally to the teachers of a provided school.

DR. MACNAMARA: I am afraid the hon. Gentleman does not quite understand the purport of my question. I am taking a case in which the position of a School Board teacher is detrimentally interfered with or worsened by the operation of the Act. Will he be eligible for the compensation provided by Clause 20 of the Act?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: If the contract with the School Board teacher is observed, there is no case for compensation I cannot understand that the position of any teacher will be worsened by the operation of the Bill, the object of which is to leave them exactly in the position in which it finds them. It does not interfere with their contracts.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, in the case of a school rented by or lent to a School Board by denominational trustees, if, after the passage of the Education Bill, that school be re-transferred to the said trustees and become thereafter a denominational school, and any teacher in the school, as a result of the re-transfer, be dismissed by the managers because of inability or disinclination to give denominational religious teaching, such teacher would be eligible for the compensation to existing officers provided for under Clause 20 of the Second Schedule to the Education Bill.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: This question does not refer to any conditions created by the Bill. Such a re-transference could only take place under the provisions of Clauses 8 and 9 of the Bill. The managers of the denominational school would not be bound to take over the staff of teachers employed by the local education authority, and the local education authority would have to take care that the teachers whom it employed received the stipulated notice of the termination of their engagement, or compensation if the terms of the contract were not fulfilled.

Belfast Re-valuation.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he can state what decision has been arrived at with regard to the application made to him by a deputation of Belfast merchants to withhold the valuation lists for Belfast until the Select Committee on Irish Valuation has issued its final report.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Beyond completing his examination of the Appeal cases, the Commissioner of Valuation does not propose to take further action until after March next. In April and May he hopes to arrange for interviews with leading mercantile and other public bodies, as well as with individuals whose valuations are seriously affected by the re-valuation. The appeal lists will probably be issued in June or July, so that those who wish may appear before the Recorder in October, when the appellants would, for the first time, be put to any expense. The Select Committee will doubtless have reported long before that date.

Belfast Registration Appeals.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland: (1) whether his attention has been called to the difference in decisions of revising barristers in Belfast in regard to the right of sub-tenants of apartments in dwelling-houses to the householders' franchise; and (2) whether he will consider the advisability of introducing a Bill providing that where a tenant and his landlord reside in different apartments of one dwelling-house, the tenant, for the purposes of the Registration Act, shall be deemed to be a lodger, and the landlord an inhabitant householder.

MR. ATKINSON: The question whether a person who occupies a portion of a house for which the tenant is rated, and the remaining portion of which the tenant occupies himself as a lodger or a sub-tenant is, in a great degree, a question of fact. The question has recently been considered in the Court of Appeal on an appeal taken from the decision of one of the revising barristers in Belfast. This decision has not yet been reported, and until there is an opportunity of considering it in connection with the earlier authorities in Irish and English Courts, it would be premature to answer the question.

MR. TULLY: How does it affect the lodger vote in Rathmines?

Irish Technical Instruction Grants.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the technical instruction grants, which it has been decided to continue up to a limit of £7,000 per annum, will be regarded as distinct from the amount that will accrue to Ireland as an equivalent to the increased grants to England and Wales under the Education Bill.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The decision to continue these grants up to a limit of £7,000 does not dispose of the Question put to me. The decision is definite, but not final, and may serve as a point of departure when we come to consider the question of the equivalent grant in all its bearings.

United Irish League Officials occupying Evicted Farm and Grazing Lands.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many of the 184 officials of the United Irish League, who are in possession of evicted farms and eleven months grazing lands, have been prosecuted under The Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, during the past eighteen months for unlawful assembly, conspiracy, boycotting, and intimidation; and what has been the result of these prosecutions.

MR. WYNDHAM: No such proceedings, so far as I have been able to discover, were instituted against any of these persons.

MR. TULLY: Why was there no prosecution? Was it because they are impostors, like their leaders?

[No answer was returned.]

Interest on Post Office Savings Bank Deposits in Ireland.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state when it is proposed to reduce the rate of interest on deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank; and what will be the amount of the yearly reduction of interest in the case of the depositors residing in Ireland, and whose deposits are lodged in Irish Post Office Savings Banks.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am not at present in a position to make any definite statement, but I hope to be able to introduce a Bill upon this subject early next year. I may, however, say that if the recommendation of the Select Committee in favour of a reduction of interest of one-eighth per cent. per annum is carried out, the reduction in respect of the amount to the credit of depositors on accounts opened at Irish post offices would be about £10,500.

Blacksod Bay, County Mayo.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the result of official soundings made in Blacksod Bay, County Mayo, with a view to having it made a Transatlantic port in connection with the new fast mail service between these countries and Canada; and what further steps does he propose to take in the matter.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no knowledge of any official soundings made in Blacksod Bay with a view to having it made a Transatlantic port; I do not propose to take any steps in the matter.

Leitrim Light Railways.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a Resolution adopted by the Leitrim County Council on the 19th ultimo, asking to have a light railway constructed from Arigna to Dromahaire, so as to connect North and South Leitrim, develop the Arigna Coal and Iron Works, the Lough Allen Clay Works, and the Creevelea Iron Mines and Peat Works; and whether he can state what action he proposes to take in regard to this project.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir. But legislation would be necessary to give effect to the Resolution. It is eminently desirable that something should be done in the direction indicated. This project, and others germane to it, are not, however, so far advanced as to call for a public pronouncement on my part.

Sewing Machines in Irish Schools.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if, since the abolition of result fees, the time devoted to sewing and to learning the use of the sewing machine has decreased in the country national schools of Ireland; and whether the teachers now receive as much remuneration for teaching sewing as before the abolition of result fees.

MR. WYNDHAM: Formerly five hours weekly were devoted to needlework. The Commissioners of Manual and Practical Instruction were of opinion that the requirement in this respect was excessive, and the time has accordingly been reduced by the National Board to three hours per week. The consolidated salaries now paid to teachers include a full equivalent for former payments for instruction in needlework.

Army Remounts—The Studdert Case.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the amount spent by the Crown in the prosecution of Messrs Studdert in the remount case at the Munster Winter Assizes; how much has been claimed by the defendants as expenses of witnesses for the defence; and how much has been paid to them.

MR. ATKINSON: At the request of my right hon. friend I will reply to this Question. Several of the claims have not yet been paid. The accounts have not been closed, so that it is impossible for me at present to answer the Question fully.

The Unemployed—Distress and Suffering.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in order to afford an opportunity for putting the House in possession of the facts relating to unemployment and the amount of distress and suffering due thereto, he will endeavour to arrange for at least one sitting of the House being given before the session closes to a consideration of the Motion which stands on the Notice Paper relating to Poverty (Remedial Measures).†

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The hon. Gentleman has been good enough to supplement his Question by a private letter, which I received this morning. In this he indicates that, in his view, the workhouses are insufficient to meet the demand, and that the charitable organisations for the relief of distress cannot cope with the increased pressure thrown upon them by what the hon. Member regards as the exceptional distress. No information which I have been able to obtain confirms the view of the hon. Gentleman. I only read his letter this morning, and have not had time to make very full inquiry; but I am convinced that the hon. Gentleman has given a very exaggerated view—quite unintentional, of course—of the present state of affairs. I do not think anything is to be gained by a discussion in this House on the subject. The hon. Gentleman is probably aware that a Select Committee sat six or seven years ago on a like Question, which excited a great deal of attention at the time, and the results of its labours certainly do not indicate that any profitable result would follow for the distressed classes from further debate in this House.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Is not the reason that the Committee came to no finality to be found in the fact that a General Election interfered with its labours and changed its composition?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the distress at present prevailing, the Government will now take steps, either legislative, administrative, or by way of inquiry, in order that provision may be made of opportunities for work for the unemployed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the hon. Gentleman will feel that the reply I have given to the Question of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil deals adequately with the Question he has put on the Paper.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the propriety of suggesting to the County Council and the various municipal bodies that they proceed with street improvements and other public works, with a view to providing employment during the remainder of the winter?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I could not, of course, answer a Question of that sort without notice, but I would suggest to my hon. friend whether that is not a matter which should really be left to the discretion of the local authorities.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE: Can the Prime Minister now say what the business will be on Friday?

COLONEL WELBY: Is it intended to take the Committee on the Militia and Yeomanry Bill after the London Water Bill?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I see that the right hon. Gentleman proposes to move the suspension of the Twelve o'Clock Rule if the London Water Bill is not disposed of by midnight. I hope he will confirm the arrangement, which was certainly understood, that, supposing the Bill is finished before twelve o'clock, no substantial Government business will be taken after it.

MR. CAREW (Meath, S.): When is it proposed to proceeed with the Irish Local Government Bill?

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† The following is the Motion referred to:—

"That this House, desiring to abolish the poverty and suffering due to unemployment, low wages, and excessive hours of labour, calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law at an early date measures which shall: (*a*) enforce the payment of an adequate minimum wage to all wage-earners, particularly those who now receive less than 30s. a week; (*b*) fix a maximum working period which may not exceed eight hours per day, or, alternatively, forty-eight hours per week; and (*c*) empower local authorities, acting singly or in combination, to acquire land for cultivation, and to establish industries, so that men and women unable to find employment in the ordinary labour market may be employed on suitable and remunerative work which shall not involve disfranchisement or any other political disability."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to the various Questions that have been addressed to me, I have to say that I shall not propose to take the Militia Bill after the Water Bill today if it is regarded as contentious; but I rather hope that the arrangement made by general consent yesterday will prevent it being treated as contentious; otherwise I shall put it down for tomorrow. The proposed suspension of the Twelve o'Clock Rule only applies to the Water Bill, and will not give the Government a general licence to go on with their business after midnight.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W): Some of us object to the suspension.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes; I am aware that there is a difference of opinion between the hon. gentleman and his friends. As regards tomorrow (Thursday) the first business will be the Report of the Committee on the Uganda Railway, the second Order will be the Osborne Estate Bill, and the third the Militia Bill. But I do not desire absolutely to pledge myself as to the order in which these various Bills will be taken, though certainly the Uganda Railway Bill will be the first. For Friday it may be for the convenience of the House to take a measure which, I believe, meets the wishes of Irish representatives belonging to many sections and interests, and which I am sure it is for the interests of Ireland that Parliament should pass in the course of the present session, the Irish Local Government Bill.

OSBORNE ESTATE BILL.

Reported, from the Select Committee, with an Amendment.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 394.]

Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee to be printed. [No. 394.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the whole House for tomorrow.

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS (HOUSE OF COMMONS).

Power given to the Select Committee to report their observations.

Second Report brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 395.]

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Eleventh Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

(2.43.) Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the London Water Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House): "—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 23. (Division List No. 623.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHn Gerald W. (Leeds
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, Rt HnJ. A (Worc.
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hamilton, RtHnLordG (Midd'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming

Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, RtHnA. Graham(Bute
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hon. Sir William H.
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Jacoby, James Alfred
Levy, Maurice
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Sir Edward
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Lough and Mr. Cremer.

LONDON WATER BILL.

As amended, considered :—

(2.50.) Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said that he offered no apology for moving the omission of Clause 1, because hon. Members on his side of the House regarded it as the very foundation of the whole Bill, and a false foundation as well, and they were naturally anxious to do their best to exclude it and thus defeat the whole measure. During the debate on the Second Reading it was pointed out that the Government had two models on which they could have based their Bill — the Metropolitan Board of Works and the London County Council. To this day no one could understand why the Government did not prefer the London County Council in lieu of a body which expired in the midst of infamy, after an inquiry held at the instigation not of Radical Members but of Lord Randolph Churchill, which brought to light so many misdeeds, so much corruption, and so much jobbery, that it was literally hounded out of existence and superseded by the London County Council. Hon. Members opposite had tried in vain to put their fingers on any blot on the escutcheon of the London County Council, and from the time that that body was constituted down to the present moment, it had never been proved to be guilty of any of the offences which were so characteristic of the old Metropolitan Board of Works. Its hands were perfectly clean, and not one of its most violent enemies—and he was sorry to say they were numerous, especially in the House—had been able to charge the London County Council with any of the nefarious practices which were so common in connection with the Metropolitan Board of Works. Here they had a body absolutely above suspicion, and on the basis on which it was constituted the Government might well have built up their new Water Authority. But the Minister in charge of the Bill passed it by, pure and efficient as it had proved itself in the many great works it had undertaken, and had preferred to take as his model an old and corrupt body like the Metropolitan Board of Works. Surely that fact in itself was sufficient justification for their opposition to the Bill. There was no precedent, so far as he could gather, for the extraordinary course which the right hon. Gentleman had pursued in outlining his Bill. There had been various Committees and Commissions from time to time which had reported on the London Water question, but not one of them had ever proposed the constitution of a Water Board such as the right hon. Gentleman was seeking to establish. All of them, in fact, suggested a much smaller body, of not more than thirty-five or forty members, whereas the President of the Local Government Board preferred a board of-extraordinary magnitude which would prove absolutely unworkable, most inefficient, and most costly. There was another reason which justified them in moving the omission of that Clause, and that was that the Committee which was appointed on the motion of the right hon. Gentleman to inquire into the nature and character of his proposals at first decided in favour of a Board of thirty-five members, and then, owing to some extraordinary pressure which he had never been able to understand, it reconsidered its decision, and finally accepted the right hon. Gentleman's own proposal. Why it thus climbed down he had no knowledge—they had never, in fact, been able to understand what mysterious influence was brought to bear on the Committee. Probably, however, it was not worth while at that stage to try and investigate the nature and character of the influence which undoubtedly was exercised. He was therefore proposing to revert to the proposal of the Committee appointed by the right hon. Gentleman himself.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out Clause 1."—(*Mr. Cremer.*)

Question proposed—"That the words of the Clause to the first word 'a,' in line 20, stand part of the Bill."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that before he said a word or two in reply to the hon. Gentleman who had moved this Amendment, perhaps the House would allow him to state very briefly, and without any argument for or against, what the course was which the Government proposed to take in regard to the Bill on the Report stage. It was for the convenience of the House that he should do so, and it would facilitate discussion if hon. Members knew what the intentions of the Government were. Various suggestions had been made for the Amendment of the Bill, and he would take them in the order as they stood on the Paper. In the first place, it had been pointed out that if the chairman and vice-chairman were elected from within the Board, it would create vacancies in their respective seats. It had been urged that that was unnecessary, and the Government were prepared to accept that view, and to introduce an Amendment which stood in the name of the hon. Member for Poplar, which would give effect to it. He now came to the question of numbers. The House would remember that the Bill, as originally framed, provided that the number of members of the Water Board should be seventy-three. In Committee they took out five numbers from five Metropolitan boroughs, and he promised to consider whether he could not re-arrange some of the outside areas and add their representation to that of London within. He had very carefully considered this matter, and he had been able to find four members from the outside areas which he proposed to add to the representation of the London County Council. This would make the total number of the Water Board at sixty-six, or, if the chairman and vice-chairman were elected outwith the Board, sixty-eight. Another point was whether the Water Board should agree to purchase without arbitration. The Government were unable to assent to that proposition. What they suggested was that purchase by agreement should not be valid unless the purchase arrangement had been submitted to the Court of Arbitration; and they gave full power to the Court of Arbitration to consider each contract when it came before them. As to the New River Clause, that was an "agreed Clause" which had been very carefully prepared by the New River Company, and approved of upstairs by the Joint Select Committee. While admitting that the Clause went too far, and would do more than was either desirable or necessary, he was unwilling to alter it here without realising what the effect of the alteration would be on the New River Company, but he proposed to undertake on behalf of the Government that the necessary alteration would be made in the Clause in another place.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): What about the franchise?

MR. WALTER LONG said he was advised that no question of the franchise would arise, as the franchise depended on the land; and the franchise would come to an end by the transfer of the land to the Water Board. Another suggestion was made by the hon. Member for Battersea that the members for the new Water Board should cease to be members of that Board if they ceased to be members of the constituent bodies sending them to it. There was an Amendment on the Paper which would give effect to that proposal, which he proposed to accept. He had also felt that it would be wrong that the position of vendor and purchaser should be occupied by one and the same person, and that, therefore, it was desirable that a man who was a director of a Water Company should not be a member of the first Board.

MR. LOUGH: What about the shareholders ?

MR. WALTER LONG said he thought that would be an absurd limitation, for, after all, the shareholders were very numerous; and if a man was not to be trusted to deal with contracts of this kind, it would be very difficult to find qualified people to sit on the Board. There was only one other point. On the new Board there were representatives of the Thames and Lea Conservancy. His attention had been called to the matter by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, in the course of the debate, and, in his opinion, it was not quite fair that these Conservators should, on the Water Board, take part in the decision in regard to purchase. He proposed to put an Amendment on the Paper which would exclude those Conservators from taking part in the proceedings for the settlement of the purchase. He did not propose to say very much in answer to the speech of the hon. Member for Haggerston. He recognised fully that the hon. Member had felt it his duty to make that speech; but the Government had expressed their views on the subject, and had, on the vote, obtained an overwhelming majority. He might say that in arriving at the decision to which the Government had come they were not actuated by any feeling of hostility to the London County Council. [Cries of "Hear, Hear!" from the MINISTERIAL Benches.] Their governing principle had been that of representation. Nobody could deny that in all the proposals made in connection with this question, none had found more general acceptance than that of representation, which would receive the confidence of all concerned. Therefore they had not given power to the London County Council alone, but to all the other local authorities interested. He had now only to return to the worn-out story of the Metropolitan Board of Works. He was a member of that Board when it was abolished; and if any one were to argue that because that Board was guilty of grave errors of omission and commission it ought to be condemned outright, he would be greatly mistaken. The Metropolitan Board of Works did an immense deal of excellent work. The hon. Gentleman failed to recognise that the Metropolitan Board of Works was elected by the vestries of London on a broad franchise; and he ventured to say that if they had handed the management of the water to the London County Council it would have been violently opposed by all the other local authorities, and that it certainly would not have passed this House. He contended that if they had proposed a popularly elected *ad hoc* body it would have been a very unwise and unpopular system, whereas in the proposal which the Government had made they had taken the necessary steps to secure the appointment of a practical and business-like body. He did not share the hon. Gentleman's vaticinations, and he hoped the Clause would be carried by a considerable majority.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said that he and his friends recognised to the full the very courteous and conciliatory attitude which the right hon. Gentleman had taken up in this matter and the concessions which he had made. The right hon. Gentleman had recognised that the addition of four more representatives of the London County Council on the Water Board was a very considerable improvement on the Bill. They on the Opposition side objected to the principle on which the Bill was based, but he thought that the Committee would recognise that in accepting Amendments, moved chiefly from the Opposition side, the right hon. Gentlemen had rendered the smooth and effectual working of this new body more likely. Whatever might be the opinions held with regard to his own position in this matter, he considered that the action he had taken on the Bill had been fully justified. It was all very well for those who had not been in attendance to say that the Bill should have been fought through. With such a small following it seemed to him hopeless to attempt to kill the Bill. It was obvious, with only thirty or forty Members at his back, of whom there were only seven or eight who would speak in Committee, that it was hopeless for him to attempt to kill the Bill. The only alternative was to see whether the right hon. Gentleman would meet them in the matter, and that alternative he adopted. The sole object he had in so doing was to improve the Bill and make it workable. He had ventured to make these few remarks because he felt somewhat annoyed at the strictures that had been passed upon him. In his opinion the concessions made by the right hon. Gentleman were vitiated by the principle of the Bill, and as the omission of this Clause had been moved by his hon. friend he should certainly vote for its omission. In the opinion of the Opposition in regard to the question of a municipal basis, and in regard to this being a business-like and workable Board the proposals of the Government had vitiated both principles. What had just fallen from the right hon. Gentleman had not satisfied him or encouraged him to think that this Board would be an advantage to London. The right hon. Gentleman had laid down the principle that the basis of local government should be indirect election, and that was not their view. With regard to the Board of Works he had no desire to say anything against it, but he might just point out that that Board was shown to be so defective, inefficient and corrupt, that the Government of which the right hon. Gentleman himself was a supporter swept it away. That surely was a sufficient condemnation, not only for the Board of Works but for the system of indirect election also. That was the only instance of a large public body being founded on indirect election, and the right hon. Gentleman was now going to elect this new body on the same basis. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about the Metropolitan Asylums Board?] The Metropolitan Asylums Board stood upon a different basis altogether, but many people even with regard to that body did not think it was the best possible body for the purpose. The right hon. Gentleman had said he was not actuated by any hostility to the London County Council in this matter. Mrs. Penruddocke might as well say she was not animated by any hostile feeling towards the child she bullied. The County Council could have been brought in to deal with this matter very easily indeed on the basis of direct election through the County Council. Why direct election through the County Council was not accepted by the right hon. Gentleman except through hostility to the County Council he could not understand. The basis of this Board ought to have been more in the direction of direct election, and inner London should be represented to a greater extent than outside London. He desired to enter a strong protest against this Bill being taken at all at this time of the year; it was not fair to the House, to the London Members, or to the London ratepayers. This Autumn Session was taken for educational purposes and not for the purposes of this Bill, and to force a Bill of this kind down the throats of the House in December, when it could have been dealt with in the previous August, was not treating the House or those interested in that great question with the respect to which they were entitled. The ultimate result of this procedure would be that the Bill, which otherwise would have been most satisfactory, would not be the success they all desired.

MR. LOUGH quite agreed that the highest praise was due to the right hon. Gentleman for the manner in which he had conducted the Bill, but such praise as was given to the right hon. Gentleman did not prevent them from taking exception to the principles which the Bill contained. He regretted that his hon. friend should have said what he did with regard to the arrangement that had been made, because it was not quite an open question. What some of them complained of was that this arrangement should have been made without its being sanctioned by a meeting of the Party. No one on that side of the House regarded his hon. friend with feelings of greater respect, or would follow him more closely in his proper sphere than he (Mr. Lough) would. But the sphere of his hon. friend, as a late Under Secretary for the Colonies, was the Colonies. With regard to London matters, if they had any Leader at all on the Front Bench, that Gentleman was not his hon. friend but the hon. Member for Southwark. But the London Members who sat on the Back Benches would receive no tyranny from the Front Bench on London matters at all. With regard to the concessions made by the right hon. Gentleman there were several important points which had been omitted. There had been no concession made with regard to compensation for purchase, for instance, and the concession with regard to the constitution of the first Board would require some extension. His personal complaint against the right hon. Gentleman and hon. Gentlemen opposite was that hon. Members opposing this measure had not been given any opportunity to fight their battles. Clause 1 illustrated the impossibility of anybody holding the views he did adopting a friendly attitude towards this Clause. Anybody who called himself a Radical and a friend of democratic politics in this country must oppose this Clause with all the force in his power. It remained as objectionable now as when it was introduced. The number of the Board was exactly the same as the number in the Bill as it was originally introduced, and all the objections taken then held good at this moment. It was true that the right hon. Gentleman had given the London County Council a representation of fourteen instead of ten, but according to the opinion of the London County Council, as expressed at a meeting held on the previous day, that did not do the County Council any good whatever. It increased their responsibility, but it did not increase their power to enforce that responsibility. The London County Council was still hopelessly outnumbered, and not placed in any better position for fighting its battles. If for the moment they confined their view to the representation of boroughs within London alone on this Board, the Metropolitan Borough Councils had a representation of thirty-one as against ten representatives of the London County Council, so that, without counting the outside boroughs, the London County Council, was hopelessly outnumbered. The constitution of the Board was as bad as it could well be, and he did not believe any Member of the Opposition had sacrificed for the concession that had been made the rooted objection he had to this Clause. There was no direct election from the London County Council to this Board. The system on which it was based was most absurd—twelve or fourteen local authorities were formed into an electoral college to elect one member to this body. This system of indirect election was not one that should be set up at this time of day. A compromise would have been possible in this matter. There was the compromise proposed by the hon. Member for North Wilts: a compromise suggested by the Joint Committee, to whose decision he submitted weight should be attached. The Joint Committee, when it was left free, before it was influenced by the Government suggested a compromise which the hon. Member for North Wilts had moved in the House. That was a compromise which would have been accepted by the Opposition, and which would have been a real compromise. It would have got rid of these electoral colleges, and given a small and compact Board with a respectable representation to London, and adequate representation to Essex, Kent, and other counties around London. The right hon. Gentleman, however, had not accepted that compromise; he had not had regard to the suggestion of the Joint Committee; he had not met the objections of the Opposition to this Clause, and he (Mr. Lough) was very glad they were all going into the Lobby to vote against it.

(3.35.) DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) expressed the opinion that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board had treated the London Members who opposed this Bill very well indeed. There were only seven of them, and for every one who stood up to oppose the Bill, the right hon. Gentleman could put up eight on his side to support it. He was entitled to do so, but he had not done it, and for having exercised that self-denying ordinance he was entitled to the thanks of hon. Members. The fundamental issue which overshadowed, and in fact entirely dwarfed all others, was the question of the constitution of the Board. That was the main point of this Clause, and he, for the last time, vehemently opposed it. The Board consisted of sixty-eight members. It was still too large and unwieldy; there was nothing like it on any Select Committee or Royal Commission; there was nothing like it in any previous Bill for London water, and there was nothing like it with regard to any municipal supply throughout Great Britain. There was from £30,000,000 to £40,000,000 of the ratepayers' money involved in this Bill, and he did not consider that this Board was competent to deal with that sum in a wise and careful manner. What he felt was that it would blunder in its inexperience at a most serious cost to the ratepayers, and that the blunders which it would make would be those which were bound to be made at the outset of its career. With regard to the Board of Works, which had been referred to by the right hon. Gentleman, the report of Lord Randolph Churchill's Commission, which investigated the affairs of the Board, was of a most serious character, and revealed a most lamentable scandal with regard to two members of the Board and some of the servants as well. And the Commission went out of its way to do so. He thought the Government were hopelessly wrong in the way they treated the County and Borough Councils in this matter. He thought the increase of the Board from thirty to sixty-eight all arose from the mistaken desire of the Government to insist upon the representation of Borough Councils upon it. The Joint Committee carried, by six votes to three, a recommendation that the representation of Borough Councils should be struck out, and then the counsel for the promoters, who were the Government, came to the Joint Committee and said that the promoters had heard with profound regret that the representation of Borough Councils was struck out. A motion to adhere to the decision to strike out the Borough Council representation was then put from the Chair, and upon it there voted five as against five, and by the casting vote of the Chairman it was lost. So that, on the casting vote of one man, London for all time was condemned to an unworkable scheme. Viscount Hampden, in regard to that matter, said the Government had shown in an unmistakable way that they dominated the Committee through their own Chairman, and they had not shrunk from coercing the Committee into going back on its own decision to establish a more efficient and workable Board, and the noble Lord had gone on to say that if the Water Companies were to be done away with the London County Council was the only body left to deal with it, provision being made for the representation of the outside areas. It was a pity that the Government should impose upon London an authority so grotesque as that which they seemed determined to establish. He was still as opposed to this Board as ever he had been. It was too large and unwieldy; it was removed from the effective control of the ratepayers; it had not the necessary experience and knowledge to carry out the duties of purchase; it was founded on the discredited model of the Metropolitan Board of Works; and despite the pressure of the Government it had not even now the sanction of the majority of the Joint Committee which examined the details of the Bill.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said that the County Council for thirteen years had persistently pressed on the Government a solution of the water difficulty by asking that, as in every other municipality, the water supply should be placed in its hands. By Clause 1 the Government had said that the water supply of London was anomalous, defective, and expensive, and ought no longer to remain in the hands of private enterprise, but that it should be transferred from private enterprise, with its waste, extravagance, mismanagement, and occasional droughts, to a public body. He sincerely regretted that instead of entrusting it to the London County Council the Government had decided to set up this Board of sixty-eight members, drawn from seventy-seven districts, and elected in the most extraordinary way. By their majority the Government had superimposed upon the proper municipal authorities the representation of thirty Borough Councils. Unfortunately for the Government the Borough Councils had shown no enthusiasm in the matter, nor were the ratepayers excited on the issue. He had looked in vain to see the people of London "in fine frenzy rolling" walking either to Trafalgar Square or Parliament Street to press for

Borough Council representation. In the course they had taken the Government had neither facts, experience, nor wisdom on their side. The whole tendency of government in the municipal sphere, and even in the centralised area of State action, was to remit technical subjects, practical questions, and administrative matters, to small bodies. With other London Liberal Members, he objected to the Board on account of its size, and so far as they had been able to reduce the number of members they had proportionately increased its efficiency. If the London County Council, with 139 members, could discharge 21 statutory functions ranging over the whole ramifications of local, social and sanitary municipal life, there was no reason why a body of 68 should be created to look after one of the simplest, although the largest, of sanitary duties. The size of the Board made for inefficiency, its composition might make for extravagance; and the relative inexperience of the 68 members would very likely lead to an increase of the rate. It would, therefore, be the duty of the President of the Local Government Board and his officials to keep their eye very closely on this Board in defence of the ratepayers. To those who desired wherever possible to secure direct and effective popular control in municipal matters, Clause 1 was a great disappointment, and he hoped that at some time in the future the right hon. Gentleman would be able to bring in an amending Bill, and that the Borough Councils would not be drawn into conflict either with the London County Council or with the six outside County Councils, but that they would agree harmoniously, if possible, in the interests of everybody concerned. This body ought not to be allowed to sit in a back street and buy pipes, as the War Office bought horses, in a fourth-floor garret. He hoped it would do its work in the full glare of publicity, and that in every sense of the word it would be a public statutory body discharging its duty in the clear light of day. Those with whom he acted, now that they had been beaten, desired to see the Board a success. If it did enter upon a career of usefulness it would be largely due to the fact that those who had objected to the Board on principle had placed the House and the public in the possession of facts and fears which would make every Department responsible for the Board watch its future progress with great care. This Board would have to spend large sums of money on pipes, engines, and so forth for the carrying out of large public works. The President of the Local Government Board should, therefore, see that the new water authority had sub-Committees formed of men who were beyond suspicion and above reproach. The tenders should be open and the contracts carried out with justice to everybody, and there should be no preferential treatment of an exclusive ring of contractors, such as had sometimes happened. Above all, it was to be hoped that local grievances would not be magnified, and that districts which happened to be ably represented would not be able to extract from the Water Board special concessions and advantages which poorer and less ably represented districts were not able to secure. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the conciliatory tone and temper with which he had met many of their proposals. From conversation with members of the London County Council he could assure the House that that body would send to this Board fourteen of the ablest and most experienced men on the water question in London, who would do their best openly and fairly to inspire the other members with their knowledge, to enthuse them with their experience, and to co-operate with them in unravelling the knot into which the London water question had got through the apathy of London, the ineffectiveness of Parliament, and the indifference that too many London bodies had displayed on the subject. It was the duty of the Metropolis of the Empire to have the best water supply in the world, and to see that Old Father Thames was no longer depleted of the enormous quantity of water of which the present system deprived it. To secure these two objects this Water Board had been created, and in its work it would have the help and good wishes of all those who had opposed it on principle.

(4.0.) Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said he would try in what he had to say to imitate the tone which the hon. Member for Battersea had displayed in his speech. This was a question with which he was conversant, and one upon which he had heard the opinion of men belonging to all classes in a large industrial community. After due consideration he felt it was incumbent upon him to support this Bill. Feeling that this water question in London was one of immense urgency, he voted for the London County Council Water Bill, and he believed that he was the only hon. Member on the Ministerial side who did so. It had been said that this Bill, by giving representation to the municipal authorities on the Water Board, had given the go-by to the true feeling of London, but he thought that was an entire mistake in regard to London as a whole. He had daily contact with Londoners of various opinions, and all he could say was that when hon. Members stated that the London County Council was the only true body to represent London they erred very greatly. The Borough Councils were becoming the true representatives of these vast communities in London more and more, daily and hourly, and the London County Council seemed to be getting out of touch with those whom they were supposed to represent. The Borough Councillors were generally men who had businesses in the locality and were resident amongst the working class community, and therefore it was absolutely idle and incorrect to pretend that the County Councillors were the only true representatives of London in this matter. He was sure that every hon. Member would re-echo the hope and intention expressed by the hon. Member for Battersea, who, by his unceasing, single-minded work on behalf of London had not only earned the high reputation he enjoyed outside this House, but also the warm sympathy of those hon. Members who differed from him in his views. The hon. Member for Battersea, however, made an error when he demanded that the London County Council should have the control and management of the water question by a majority of its representatives on the ground that it contained 139 members who were now efficiently discharging twenty-one statutory duties. By this argument the hon. Member had adduced the most powerful reason of all why the London County Council was not the best body for the purpose. Surely if 139 men already had twenty-one statutory duties to perform, and remembering that the duties of the Water Board were so very intricate and onerous, that constituted an indisputable argument why the London County Council could not possibly be the most efficient administrators of the water question. What Londoners desired was to see an adequate, cheap, and regular water supply, and they felt that the Government, by the institution of the Water Board on its present lines, had created an authority which did represent in its fullest sense all the various interests both inside and outside of the London area, which, hereafter, ought to have a voice in the management of this business, Personally, he believed that his right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board would receive the warmest thanks of all the interests concerned both inside and outside of the county of London for this Bill, and his statesmanship would find a proper place in Metropolitan history. It was on these grounds that he was grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for carrying through this Bill, and he cordially joined in the expressions which had fallen from the other side of the Committee that they were willing to bury all that controversial spirit which had so long surrounded this question, and, as true Londoners, assist the Water Board to work for the benefit of the whole population of the Metropolis.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said he was astonished to hear the speech of the hon. Member for Hoxton, who took such a deep interest in social matters connected with London. The action he had taken on this question seemed extraordinary, and he did not think the hon. Member's constituency would be grateful to him for the course he had taken. Dr. Mansfield Robinson, a great water expert from the borough of Shoreditch, in his evidence before the Water Commission, read a resolution passed by the Shoreditch Borough Council on February 18th, 1902, strongly protesting against the London Water Bill now before Parliament, and disagreeing with the proposed constitution of the Water Board. Therefore the constituents of the hon. Member for Hoxton had protested against this proposal.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Not all my constituents. Will the hon. Member read on.

CAPTAIN NORTON said the resolution urged that the London County Council should be the Water Authority, and recommended that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to each Member of Parliament for the borough. It also urged them to oppose the passing into law of the London Water Bill, and to support the measure put forward by the London County Council. In the face of that resolution, the hon. Member for Hoxton came forward and supported the Bill which his constituents had asked him to oppose.

(4.13.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 113; Noes, 50. (Division List No. 624.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ. A(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, PhilipS. (Warwick, S. W
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Groves, James Grimble
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, ArthurHoward(Hanley
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hozier, Hon. James HenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. WilliamEdw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. CharlesW. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, RtHnA. Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E(Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, RtHn. C. R. (Northants
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON moved to leave out in line 20, Clause 1, "a chairman, a vice-chairman, and other," and insert "sixty-eight." He did not know that the Amendment he was proposing would be the best form in which to carry out the object he had in view, which was, that the election of the chairman and vice-chairman should rest with the Water Board itself. He understood that the President of the Local Government Board agreed with that object, but perhaps the Amendment would come better on one of the Schedules.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out the words 'a chairman, a vice-chairman, and other,' and insert the words 'sixty-eight.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said the Amendment should be made by altering Rule 1 in the Third Schedule.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he would move it there.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WALTER LONG moved to leave out from "shall" in line 21, to "be" in line 23, Clause 1.

*MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said he deeply regretted that the Government had thought it necessary to move the rejection of the Amendment which was carried in the Joint Committee at his instance. By his Amendment, as the House was aware, the first selection of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman would have been vested in the Local Government Board. He still thought it would be in the interest of the administrative efficiency of the Board that the first Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be appointed on the responsibility of the Local Government Board after anxious deliberation. He was sure the members of the Board at their first meeting would feel that they were called upon to discharge one of the most difficult and delicate duties they would ever have to perform, and he was perfectly certain they would regret that they did not find themselves presided over by a gentleman of distinction carefully selected by the Local Government Board. He regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had preferred the theoretical principles of municipal Government in this matter to practical considerations which he thought were much more important. He felt there was no good in prolonging his resistance, and therefore he would only express his strong conviction that the arrangement he proposed would have been better.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. WALTER LONG moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 21, leave out from 'shall' to 'be' in line 23."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. WALTER LONG moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 23, and page 2, line 1, leave out 'by the Local Government Board and afterwards.'"

Amendment agreed to.

MR. WALTER LONG moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 2, leave out 'elected' and insert 'appointed.'"

MR. LOUGH said if he remembered rightly this was an Amendment accepted by the right hon. Gentleman on Committee stage to which they attached considerable importance. He desired to secure that all the members of the constituent bodies should have the undoubted right to elect a member to the Water Board.

MR. WALTER LONG said the hon. Gentleman was perfectly right. This was the ordinary word used on such occasions.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. WALTER LONG, in moving the next Amemendment, said he would remind the House that his promise in Committee was by some re-arrangement of the outside areas to find four members of the Board to be added to the representation of the London County Council. He found that the County of Middlesex under the original scheme had one member to every 90,000 population, Essex one to every 85,000, Kent one to every 44,000, and Surrey one to every 49,000. It was obvious that that was not an equitable representation of these four counties. He had therefore decided to take one representative each from the counties of Kent and Surrey, which would bring their representation nearer to a level with that of Middlesex and Essex. He also proposed to take two members from the Conservancies, thus reducing the number of the Board to sixty-six, and placing the representation of London Within as compared with London Without on a proper footing.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 3, leave out '10' and insert '14.'"

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said it was quite clear that the Conservancies were moribund bodies, and the right hon. Gentleman was well advised in leaving them only one member. Some of them had ventured to point out that, under a population or ratable basis inner London was not represented on the Board as compared with outer London, and the alteration proposed by the right hon. Gentleman would bring about a much better and fairer proportion between the representation of inner and outer London. He was not going to say, however, that this addition of four members to the representation of the London County Council made him any the less opposed to the principle on which the Bill was founded. He trusted that those who took a strong view as to the position of the London County Council would feel that they were now in a much stronger position than they were under the Bill as it was originally framed, seeing that they would now have one-fifth as against one seventh of the whole representation. At the same time, the argument used by the right hon. Gentleman did not seem to him to have much weight in this connection. The right hon. Gentleman said that this would bring up the representation of the London County Council to the proportion suggested by the hon. Member for North Wiltshire. He did not think so. The proposal of that hon. Gentleman was to give the London County Council practically, if not an actual majority of the Board, an overwhelming position on it. He did not, therefore, desire to put the concession made by the right hon. Gentleman higher than it ought to be put.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said he wished to express satisfaction at the increase of four members which his right hon. friend had given to the London County Council. That satisfaction, however, was tempered by the fact that, in giving four extra members to the London County Council, his right hon. friend had taken away a member from a constituency in which he was interested.

MR. LOUGH said he thought the London County Council had been hardly treated under the Bill. For eleven years it had been the water authority for London, and had done its business very ably indeed. He was glad to see that the London County Council were getting more representation on the Water Board, but he thought it should have been larger still.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.) said that the object of the Amendment standing in his name on the Paper was to take away the representation of the Metropolitan Borough Councils. He desired to give the President of the Local Government Board one further opportunity of reducing the number of his Board. The most extraordinary thing was that the poorest parts of London, which were most interested in the water supply, were not in favour of being represented. The Metropolitan Borough Councils had shown no genuine demand for representation on the Water Board; in fact, six of the Councils had passed resolutions against their being represented on the Board. The time of these Councils was fully occupied in strictly local matters. They had never had to deal with the water question at all, but had looked to the London County Council as the proper body to deal with it.

MR. WALTER LONG said that the hon. Member for Battersea had proposed an Amendment by which when a member had ceased to be a member of a Local Board, he ceased to be a member of the Water Board.

Mr. CAUSTON said that matter was quite safe in the hands of his hon. friend the Member for Battersea, and therefore he would not say anything more about it. He did not quite understand it. He understood that the members of the Water Board were to be taken from the various local authorities, and directly these gentlemen ceased to be members of the local authority they ceased to be members of this Board.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 6, to leave out the words 'one by the Council of each of the other metropolitan boroughs.'"—(*Mr. Causton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WALTER LONG said the hon. Gentleman had truly said it was not possible to say anything new either for or against the proposal he made, which was that the scheme of the Bill should be altered at this the last moment by the elimination of the Borough Councils. One thing he had not said anything about, and that was the effect the Amendment would have. If the Amendment were carried the Metropolitan Boroughs would be cut off, and the principle for which hon. Gentlemen had so strongly contended in the previous Amendment would be cut off altogether. The hon. Gentleman had spoken of six Metropolitan Boroughs which he said were opposed to this proposal, and he had stated that those were all poor Boroughs in the south of London; he had forgotten to mention that they also sided with him politically. The hon. Gentleman had stated that none of these Boroughs had expressed a desire to be put on this governing body. But if the hon. Gentleman was entitled to quote these six Boroughs against the proposal of the Government, the Government were also entitled to quote the remainder in its favour. No pressure had been brought to bear on the Boroughs to support this measure, and since the Bill had been introduced they had not altered in one iota the desire they had to be brought into the Bill. Hon. Gentlemen opposite knew quite well that they did their best to get up agitations against the Bill, and that they had failed; there had been no response to their suggestions from any part of London. And they knew perfectly well that the Government had received overwhelming support. He believed the Government had taken the right step in including the Metropolitan Boroughs in this Bill, and he asked the House to support the Government by rejecting this Amendment.

Mr. LOUGH thought the right hon. Gentleman had rather misrepresented the argument of his hon. friend the hon. Member for Southwark, and what his hon. friend had proved by it. The right hon. Gentleman had also omitted to mention the most important fact in this matter, which was that the Joint Committee recommended the very suggestion which his hon. friend had just made. The Joint Committee recommended that the representation of the Borough County Councils should be struck out, and it was only when the Government sent back to that Committee the message that they had received this recommendation with profound regret that those who had already voted against it agreed to the inclusion of these boroughs in the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman had insinuated that if hon. Members went into the Lobby in support of this Amendment they would be voting for the reduction of London representation, but that was not so, because the effect of this Amendment, if carried, would be to get rid of all the inside and outside boroughs. The argument in support of this Amendment was that these boroughs had no duty analogous to that which would be thrown on their shoulders, and that if they had they would, however important these boroughs might be in themselves, derive no good by sending one member to a Board of 68. The appointment of these members did not synchronise with the election of the Councils themselves, so that in all probability the members appointed to the Water Board would remain members of that body long after they had ceased to be members of the Borough Councils. He thought his hon. friend was perfectly justified in dividing against it, and that it could not be said that they were in any way treating the representation of London unfairly by supporting the Amendment.

*LIEUT. COLONEL TUFNELL (Essex, S.E.) said he strongly opposed the Amendment. He happened to know that so far from the Borough of Islington not desiring to be represented on the Board, they had sent in a requisition that they should be allowed to have two representatives on it instead of one. They thought it was hard, as they were the wealthiest and largest ratable borough in London, that they should only have one representative on the Board, whilst the City of Westminster, where there was nothing like the extent of population, were to have two. The Borough of Islington was one of the hardest working, and one of the best boroughs in London, and they would be only too glad if the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to allow them to have two members instead of one on the Water Board.

(4.53) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 625.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bignold, Arthur
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S (Warwick, S.W.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Howard J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E. (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt Hon. E. R. (Bath
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank Master of
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea

Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn. C.R. (Northants
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. Causton.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 17, leave out 'and'."

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 18, leave out 'one by the councils of the urban districts of.'"

"Clause 1, page 2, line 35, leave out 'and.'"

"Clause 1, page 2, line 36, leave out 'one by the councils of the urban districts of.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 39, leave out 'three,' and insert 'one.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) said he did not see why the Thames Conservancy should only have one representative on the Board. It must be remembered there was a question now before a Royal Commission of dividing administration over the river into two parts, and, if this suggestion were carried out, the Thames Conservancy should have at least two members.

MR. WALTER LONG said he had been reluctant to reduce the representation of the Conservators, but the reduction was necessary from the considerations that had already been discussed, and he asked the House to abide by the distribution which had been arranged. The Thames Conservancy was no worse off than any other constituted authority. He was surprised that his hon. friend should have quoted the Report of the Royal Commission, because that surely was a strong recommendation for the course the Government had adopted. All the work which had to do with this new Board had relation to the upper Thames, and, that being so, it was only the upper Thames that should be represented on the new Board. He regretted having to reduce the representation of the Thames Conservancy, but he could not now ask the House to reconsider the matter.

SIR F. DIXON HARTLAND said that the Thames Conservancy was the body to which the whole control of the water of the Thames was given, and therefore, he should, if opportunity arose, move that the word "two" be inserted instead of one.

MR. SPEAKER: The form will be to negative the word "one," and if the hon. Gentleman succeeds in negativing "one," he may move to insert "two."

Question, "That the word 'one' stand part of the Bill," put and agreed to.

MR. LOUGH said as the Clause read now, the first words were—

"The Water Board shall pay to each company as compensation for the transfer of their undertaking."

If the words "as compensation" were left out the Clause would read much better, and convey more clearly what the Government intended to convey. The right hon. Gentleman would admit that the House was hurried and pressed this week, but if he could convince the right hon. Gentleman that the Amendment he now proposed to move was of great importance, and that it would not alter the principle of the Bill, the right hon. Gentleman would, he hoped, yet consider whether the Clause was outside the scope of improvement. All along, the Government had commended this Bill to the House by assuring them that it would not involve the principle of compensation for compulsory transfer of the Companies' property; and when the Bill was before the House on Second Reading, these words were not in the Clause. At that stage the Bill undoubtedly more accurately represented what the Government intended than the present words did. He submitted that these words should be struck out because they were contrary to the 23rd Clause of the Bill. Sub-Clause 8 of Clause 23 provided that the Court should not make any allowance for compulsory sale, or for the depreciation in the value of shares. It had been contended all along that the 10 per cent. usually allowed under the Lands Clauses Act should not be applied in this case, and the right hon. Gentleman had promised on the previous Monday that this Amendment should be taken into consideration on the Report stage. He submitted that the deletion of these words would make the Bill better sense and make it stronger. The right hon. Gentleman, having considered the matter, had, however, refused to take it "as compensation." Since then, as he saw by *The Times* of this morning, an extraordinary rise had taken place in all water stock—a rise ranging from 2 per cent. to 10 per cent.

MR. WALTER LONG: How much has changed hands?

MR. LOUGH said that water stock had risen 40 per cent. upon the price at which it stood a year and a half ago; yet it had been said the price of the purchase would not be affected by the rise and fall of the market since the Bill had been introduced. He contended they had been undoing all the good they had done in the earlier stages of the Bill. He had no doubt that all this rise in prices had been the result of the work done in this House on Monday last. The House was now considering this matter for the first time since the Joint Committee sat. That Committee stuck "compensation" all over the Bill; and the right hon Gentleman himself on the previous Monday accepted an Amendment striking out "compensation" in another Clause under much the same circumstances. Why was it put in? There could be no doubt that it was put in to suggest to the arbitrators that compensation for compulsory purchase was intended, and that being contrary to the Bill he hoped that in this connection, and upon one or two other important matters, the Government would not consider the debate closed, and that the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment he now begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 15, to leave out the words as compensation.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG thought that the hon. Member had made a great fuss about nothing. The hon. Member seemed to have been excited by the fact that water stock of all kinds had gone up on the previous day a few points, though he had not responded to the invitation extended to him to say how much had changed hands at the higher price. He had ignored the fact that words were placed in the Bill in order to prevent any rise or fall of the price of stock which, in the opinion of the arbitrator, was due to the introduction of the Bill being taken into consideration in estimating the value of these undertakings. Though there had been a rise, it was obvious that it necessarily need have no effect on the ultimate value of the concerns. He had heard hon. and learned Gentlemen discuss the advisability of leaving out or leaving in these words, and even they had disagreed, and that being so, what was an unfortunate layman to do but to leave them where they were. This subject was considered upstairs, and it was deliberately decided to insert those words, and he hoped the House would abide by that decision.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said there was one thing that would certainly have helped the right hon Gentleman in this dilemma, and that would have been to have taken out of the Bill the word upon which the lawyers differed, and thus have removed the bone of contention. In his opinion, it would be a dangerous thing to allow these words to remain in the Bill. In the Tramways Act of 1870 a similarly slovenly Clause was put in, and what was the result? The courts of England and Scotland came to different conclusions upon that Clause; there was arbitration after arbitration; hundreds of pounds thrown away on litigation, and it was not until years after that the matter was definitely settled by a decision of the House of Lords. Why should these words, "as compensation," be put in at all? They had words in Clause 23 of the Bill which, standing by themselves, would be a full and sufficient guide to the arbitrators. The Court of Arbitration was to determine the value of the undertaking on certain principles; nothing was to be given for compulsory purchase; and there was to be no enhancement of the value by reason of a rise in the value of stock. Allowances were to be made for costs, and very properly. They had laid down the principles upon which the arbitrators were to proceed. When they came to the Clause under discussion there was an utterly foreign expression imported—"as compensation" was put in. Why were those words inserted? Was it to introduce some new element? They ought to hear from the right hon. Gentleman why those words were inserted in Committee, and if they were necessary why the Government did not put them in originally. He thought his hon. friend was well founded in his desire to get words deleted from the Bill, which the Government could not explain, and which were not germane to the Clause; which were not in the original draft, and which must have been inserted for some purpose. Under cover of the words of the Clause, as it stood, it might be contended by the Water Companies that they were entitled to be paid something in consideration, say, of the rise of ratable value.

Mr. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said he should like to know upon which leg the Party opposite desired to stand. If the Committee did anything they approved of, hon. Gentlemen opposite desired the Government to substantiate it. If it did not, then they desired the Government to alter it. He thought the words "as compensation" were rightly inserted, and that they ought not to be struck out.

(5.28.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 139; Noes 56. (Division List No. 626.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ. A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fergusson, RtHn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG. (Midd'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, RtHon William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, RtHnA. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B (Isle of Wight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)

Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward

Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)

Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Fenwick, Charles

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Levy, Maurice
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland

Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (Northants
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lough and Mr. Haldane.

MR. LOUGH said the next Amendment he proposed to move was one to which they attached the greatest value. Its object was to prevent the new Water Board from arriving at an agreement for the purchase of all these great undertakings without bringing the case before the Arbitrators at all. This question had been argued at some length. On Monday last, after a long debate, the right hon. Gentleman met the Committee in a very fair spirit, and stated that he would consider the matter on Report. The right hon. Gentleman had fulfilled his promise, and had put an Amendment on the Paper which went a long way to meet the object he (Mr. Lough) had in view. Under those circumstances he would not detain the House, but would merely ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it was quite clear that the Arbitrators would have full power with regard to the suggestions put before them. He wanted to be sure that the intention of the Government was that the Arbitrators should be able to fully examine the agreements, if agreements should be arrived at, and in order to allow any one who was a high authority upon drafting to offer some explanation.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 16, to leave out from the word 'sum' to the end of line 17."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

"Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said he proposed to move the Amendment standing in his name, and the hon. Gentleman would see from the words of the Amendment that they gave full power to the Arbitrators.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn—

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 27, at end, to add, 'Any such agreement shall be valid only if and so far as it is confirmed by the court of arbitration constituted by this Act, and that court may confirm the agreement either with or without modifications.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said they were all very much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for meeting the House in regard to this matter. The proposal he made was a satisfactory one, and he hoped it would work well and might save time and trouble. What the Opposition had always felt before was that there was no check on behalf of the ratepayers on the transactions the Water Board might have with the Water Companies. He proposed to insert at the end these words, in order to make it clear—"one constituent authority should have power to object to the agreement." Those words, he thought, would give power to the constituent authorities to object. He thought agreements should not be carried through at all unless the Water Board was unanimous.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not know whether the words suggested would give the constituent authorities the right it was desired to give them, but he could not accept the Amendment because it would interfere with what was obviously the duty of the Water Board.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LOUGH thought Clauses 7 and 8 were very important, and the House ought to give them a little more consideration before they passed them. He moved to omit Clause 7. It was one of the most serious provisions. Under the Bill some £4,500,000 of debentures were to be bought up and extinguished. The Clause provided the principle upon which those debentures were to be bought up, which was for the issue of new water stock. In addition, if there was any deficiency at any time, the rates of the whole area were liable to be called upon to make it up. This made the new water stock to be created a far better security than the present debenture stock. Under the provisions of the Bill, enough stock was to be issued to provide an income equal to the present income derived by the holders from their stock. It had been estimated that this would cast an immense burden upon the ratepayers of the Metropolis. The House had put this particular point before the hon. Gentleman on Monday last. They were buying up not a single company, but eight companies, and the right hon. Gentleman would not contend that the whole of the eight companies stood in exactly the same position. The New River Company had issued a small amount of debentures in proportion to its income and assets, and it had been exceedingly well managed. Therefore, its securities stood on a much higher level than those of some of the other companies. None of the companies could be regarded as bad, but three of them might be said to be in the second class. By this Clause they were put in the same position as those which had the very best debentures. Manifestly that was not fair. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to introduce some general words which would remove the evil which he saw here. He suggested the insertion of some words, such as "an equal amount of stock of an equally good security." That would give the arbitrators a free hand to take into consideration the fact that some of the companies had not such high-class securities as others. He did not want the vendors to be badly treated at all. In order that the point might be dealt with, he begged to move that Clause 7 be left out.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 4, to leave out Clause 7."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped that the hon. Member would not press this. The matter had already been discussed at great length. There was really no foundation for the view the hon. Member had put forward that the value of the debenture stock was to be measured by the stability of the company itself. He had never heard anybody suggest, whatever the position of the London Water Companies, that they did not in each case furnish ample security. The argument that in the case of a company where little stock was issued the debentures were more valuable than in the case of a company where a great deal was issued, was in direct contradiction of the facts. He did not pretend to know what were the rules that governed these matters, but if the hon. Member would look into the facts he would find that the value of the stock had nothing to do with the amount issued. There were a great many other considerations that weighed, and to introduce general words, as had been suggested, would only land them on uncertain ground.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) moved to leave out from sub-Section (6) of Clause 9, the words—

> "But the Adventurers' and the King's shares shall continue to be of the nature of land to the like extent and in like manner as heretofore, and to devolve and be transmissible and dealt with as such, and any water stock issuable to the New River Company under this Act and distributable among the owners of the Adventurers' and King's shares respectively in respect of such shares."

He understood that his hon. and gallant friend who represented the New River Company desired to have this matter more carefully considered by the legal advisers of the Company. There were provisions n the Clause which required further consideration, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give the House an assurance that Amendments would be introduced in another place.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 7, line 30, to leave out from the word 'section,' to the first word 'the,' in line 37."—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said he entirely agreed with his hon. friend that this Clause required very careful investigation, and that it required amendment. It was a very difficult Clause, and there was no doubt that it carried them further than they ought to be carried with regard to the altered character of the new shares. He would undertake that these matters would be investigated. His hon. and gallant friend had promised him assistance in the matter. He would also take care that it was attended to by the Attorney General, and that Amendments were introduced in another place which would make the Clause plain.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn) moved to leave out "would otherwise be entitled to" in page 9, line 6, Clause 10.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the President of the Local Government Board stated, when the Bill was in Committee, that he might be able to see his way to omit certain words from Clause 10 in order to make it clear that no compensation would be payable. He proposed to omit the words relating to compensation "in respect of the interests of the company in the undertaking of the Joint Committee, or any expenditure by the company in respect of the said undertaking."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 9, line 6, to leave out from the word 'for,' to the word 'any,' in line 8."—(*Mr Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said that what he promised was that he would again very carefully examine the Clause to see whether it was necessary to alter it. He had done so, and he was assured that there was nothing in the Clause which affected or altered in any way the rights these companies might have at the present time. If they had any rights they must be submitted to the Board of Arbitration, who had full power to deal with them. If they had none, they got nothing fresh under this Clause. He was advised that it was undesirable to alter these words.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH said he was awfully afraid of the word "compensation" whenever he saw it, and he would prefer that these words should be omitted altogether.

MR. GOULDING (Wiltshire, Devizes) said this Clause received very great consideration in the Committee upstairs, and the Chairman laid it down that the companies interested should go absolutely unprejudiced before the Court of Arbitration to state their case. He hoped his right hon. friend would adhere to the words "for compensation." Obviously they had been put in with some object, and it did seem rather hard that they should be struck out now.

MR. REMNANT also appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to stand by the words in the Bill.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said the case of a Water Company would not be prejudiced before the Court of Arbitration by anything in the Clause. The words of the Clause were—

"nothing in this section shall prejudice or affect any claim which any metropolitan water company would otherwise be entitled to make for compensation in respect of the interest of the company in the undertaking of the Joint Committee or any expenditure by the company in respect of the said undertaking."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WALTER LONG moved—

"In Clause 11, page 10, line 18, after 'Enfield,' insert 'and to agreements between the Water Board and those Councils.'"

Amendment agreed to.

MR. WALTER LONG moved—

"In Clause 11, page 10, line 21, at end, insert 'and to agreements between the Water Board and those Companies.'"

Amendment agreed to.

(6.0.) MR. LOUGH said he had an Amendment on the Paper in regard to the equalisation of water charges, which had regard to a provision inserted in the Bill very hastily on Monday last. In every great city of the kingdom, except London, the water supply was handled by the rating authority; and in every great city in the kingdom there was an equalisation of water rates. It was a very good thing for the people who lived in wealthy districts of London that this equalisation of charges should be introduced, but how would it fare with the poor parts of London, where at present the water charges were low? He represented such a district. What they wanted was to go to the richer parts of the City and get them to pay something towards equalising the rates in the poorer parts. But that, he contended, would be impossible under the Bill as it at present stood. At Islington, for instance, a house valued at £20 a year paid £1 4s. for its water, whereas in Camberwell a house of the same value paid £3 7s. What was wanted was that these high charges for water should be reduced, but it should not be done at the cost of the people who now enjoyed the advantage of a low rate.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 38, at end, to insert the words 'provided that such uniform charges shall not raise the price of water in any district of the Metropolis which now receives a grant under the Equalisation of Rates Act, 1894"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said there could be no doubt that there was a difficulty in regard to the equalisation of the water rates, but that difficulty would not be met by the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman. On the contrary, that Amendment would increase the difficulty. It was perfectly true that on one side of a street the charge for water might be much higher than on the other side, and while everybody who paid the higher charge was very glad to see equalisation, those who paid the low charge objected to equalisation. It was admitted on all hands that this question of equalisation was the most difficult task which the Water Board would have to face. It could not be solved, he maintained, by the particular measure proposed in the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman; and he respectfully suggested to the House to leave the matter unfettered in the hands of the Water Board.

MR. LOUGH begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WALTER LONG moved:—

"In Clause 15, page 13, line 39, leave out sub-section (7) and insert, '(7) Within three years after the appointed day the Water Board may prepare and publish in the *London Gazette* a scheme enabling their charges for the supply of water to be collected together with any local rate. Any local or rating authority within the limits of supply may transmit to the Local Government Board their objections to any such scheme within forty days after the scheme is published in the *London Gazette.*'"

Amendment agreed to.

MR. WALTER LONG moved:—

"In Clause 16, page 14, line 39, leave out 'eighty,' and insert 'one hundred.'"

Amendment agreed to.

MR. HALDANE said he wished to amend Clause 18 (Provisions as to the Discharge of Loans, etc.) in respect of the period fixed for the commencement of the Sinking Fund. As the Clause stood that period was fixed at twenty years. That would be quite right if this was not a going concern, but it seemed to him that to allow the Water Board to wait twenty years before commencing the Sinking Fund would be a little hard on posterity, and he suggested that seven years would be quite long enough.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 16, line 9, to leave out the word 'Twenty,' and insert the word 'Seven.'—(*Mr. Haldane.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Twenty' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the Royal Commission in their Report recommended that a period of twenty years should be given to the Water Board before they formed a Sinking Fund. Everybody pointed out that there would be great difficulties in the way of the new Board, that there would be many risks and increased cost of production, seeing the Board was taking over eight different going concerns, and consolidating them into one. On the whole, he thought that this was one of those cases in which it was just to give more generous terms than were usually given. Twenty years was not too long to give to the Board to enable them to accumulate their profits before starting the Sinking Fund; and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON regretted the right hon. Gentleman had not seen his way to accept the Amendment. It was true the Water Board would have to take a certain risk, and in the opinion of some that risk owing to the constitution of the Board, was considerably enhanced; but it was, after all, taking over a going concern. Its capital, therefore, would not for a number of years be unproductive, which was the usual reason for the postponement of the creation of the Sinking Fund. Moreover, before many years a considerable outlay of capital would be necessary for extensions of works, and possibly for the acquisition of a new and distant source of supply. Under these conditions it was surely desirable that the redemption of the original capital should begin at as early a date as possible. The period of the loan had been extended to 100 years in order that the Sinking Fund should be a smaller annual charge on the ratepayer. But if the creation of the Sinking Fund were postponed for twenty years, it would, when it eventually came into operation, be a heavier charge, because spread over a shorter period, and the advantage of the extension of the period of the loan would be lost. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision.

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) thought that if the creation of the Sinking Fund were put off for twenty years, there would be a danger of it not being created at all. He really regretted any period of delay whatsoever being allowed. The increasing burdens on the ratepayers were very alarming, and this was the way in which they were aggravated. The water supply of London was a profitable concern, and there was no reason why the Sinking Fund should not commence at once. It would certainly tend to economy, as the ratepayers would feel the burden of the responsibility they were undertaking. He therefore supported the view of the right hon. Gentleman on the other side.

Captain JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) hoped the Government would not give way on the point. During the first few years the Board would have large sums to pay in compensation, and it was inadvisable to throw too heavy a burden on the ratepayers.

*Mr. WHITMORE reminded the right hon. Gentleman that the postponement of the Sinking Fund had been used as an argument against a previous Amendment, and had doubtless influenced the action of the hon. Member for Peckham in expressing it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 39, to leave out the words 'the law of compensation for the purposes of.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 20, line 7, after 'expenses,' insert '(other than costs incurred in any arbitration under this Act.)'"—*Mr. Walter Long.*

Amendment agreed to.

MR. LOUGH moved the omission of Clause 26, which he described as one of the most objectionable in the Bill. Under the Clause the Government took power to bring certain areas into the limits of supply, and to leave others out. Consequently it had the right to increase the Water Board practically as it liked. The Bill had been improved by the Government agreement to reduce the number of members to sixty-six, but if it could be increased as he suggested, it would be possible completely to alter the balance of voting strength as between the inside and outside areas. One great weakness of the Clause was that the Local Government Board was restricted to considering the question on the basis of the variation of population, instead of being able to take all the circumstances of the case into consideration. It was a most dangerous Clause, and one which would—if there had been time for discussion in Committee — not have been left in the Bill in its present form. There was no area in the world in which there was so much shifting of population as in the particular area here concerned. New residential suburbs were constantly springing up and others going down, and if it went according to the movement of population the representation on the Board would be always changing. The representation was not on any definite principle, and consequently there were such anomalies as Holborn having one representative for 60,000 inhabitants, while Islington with 340,000 inhabitants also had one representative. If any alterations were required, the Water Board should be left to apply to Parliament in the usual way. The best course would be to leave out the Clause altogether; if that could not be done, the first three sub-Sections should be omitted; but, at any rate, the consideration ought not to be restricted to the variation of population.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 5, to leave out Clause 26."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'if at any time by reason of' stand part of the Bill."

(6.30.) CAPTAIN JESSEL thought there was a great deal in the argument of the hon. Member with regard to sub-Section (1), but it would be a pity to leave out the whole Clause.

DR. MACNAMARA drew attention to the fact that the Amendment had been supported by the Mayor of a borough, the population of which was diminishing, but which nevertheless was to retain two nominees on the Board. The basis of representation was originally fixed on the basis of ratable value and population, whereas under the present proposal the representation was to be varied on the basis of population only. That might cut across the original scheme of representation, but he did not mind that, as he was opposed to ratable value being taken into account at all. He should support the sub-section, as being more democratic than the original scheme.

MR. JOHN BURNS was convinced that the Amendment would operate in the opposite direction to that desired by the hon. Member for West Islington. It would alter the basis of the Bill, and give a disproportionate representation to declining districts. In the last ten years the population of nine of the central London parishes had diminished to the extent of 67,000, and that, he thought, was an argument against the Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Clause had been inserted to meet cases which might arise in which an alteration of representation was required. Obviously, it would be far better to make such alterations by the machinery of the Local Government Board and Provisional Order, than by a private Act of Parliament. There was really no danger of anything unjust being done. On the whole, he thought the Clause was a useful one, and had better be retained.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LOUGH moved the omission of the words, "the variation of population or." He said the arguments of his hon. friends had not convinced him. Even though shifting of population did take place, the anomalies thereby created would be as nothing compared with those set up under the Bill. There should be no mandatory provision restricting the Local Government Board to the consideration of one point only; the matter should be looked at generally.

Amendment proposed to the Bill —

"In page 22, line 5, to leave out the words 'the variation of population or.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. JOHN BURNS thought the hon. Member had forgotten that in the composition of the Board, each Borough Council, irrespective of its population, would have a minimum representation of one member.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland) moved the omission of Clause 33 (saving the rights of the South-West Suburban Water Company). He said that this was a Clause of considerable importance, and Clauses 34, 35 and 36 stood practically on the same footing. There were certain voluntary agreements with the small suburban companies by which the great companies had undertaken not to supply water in certain suburban districts, and this and following Clauses converted these agreements into statutory obligations. Why had this change been made? So far as the agreements were voluntary, they were continued by Clause 45, and would be binding on the Water Board; but these Clauses went much further, and the Water Board would be forbidden from supplying water in districts which the Water Companies had a right to supply. If the companies had not supplied water in these suburban districts it was for good reasons, and those reasons would doubtless guide the Water Board. Except in regard to the South Essex Company these Clauses had not been discussed by the Joint Committee; they were treated as agreed Clauses. The London County Council had expected the Local Government Board to state the case against the Clauses, and were completely taken by surprise when the Clauses were brought forward as agreed Clauses. They, however, altered statutory limits of supply without examination, and gave monopolies to certain companies which were not now enjoyed under any Act. He hoped the Government would not force these Clauses on the House.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 13, to leave out Clause 33." (*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 33 stand part of the Bill."

MR. GRANT LAWSON said these Clauses were inserted by the Joint Committee, by whom individual rights were considered, at the instance of counsel representing the smaller water companies interested. So far from it being the case that the Water Board would be unable to supply within an area which the companies had a right to supply, he might point out that in this instance the Grand Junction Company had no power by statute to supply in the district referred to. It was not a matter for the Government; it was a matter of private rights for the Committee to consider, and the London County Council had notice of the intention to propose the Clauses. The real reason for the greater part of these Clauses was the existence of Clause 3, which provided that where a water company had been accustomed to supply water in any part of a parish the Companies Acts should apply to the whole parish. It would be extremely hard if, where a small company had allowed a bigger neighbour to come in by agreement, Clause 3 should transfer to the Water Board the whole of the parish out of the area of supply granted by Parliament to the smaller company.

MR. LOUGH thought the House ought to have more justification of these Clauses than had been given. They were, in effect, five private Acts of Parliament for the benefit of five private trading companies. The London Members had had a greater burden thrown upon them by these Clauses than by any other part of the Bill. They knew the areas originally affected very well, but now these suburban authorities had been to the Local Government Board and obtained fresh rights and powers.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: I must protest against that suggestion. The Clauses give the companies no right whatever that they did not before possess.

MR. LOUGH said that the companies to be bought up by the Water Board had had the right to supply in parts of the area of these smaller companies, and that right was now being taken away, so that the companies would have a monopoly where hitherto there had been competition.

MR. WALTER LONG pointed out that the Clauses were the result of the procedure to which such Bills as that under discussion were subject. The general principle had to be approved by the House, but in order that the private rights of individuals or corporations should be properly protected the Bill had to go before a Private Bill Committee. The companies presented their case, and every opportunity was given for the opposite view to be stated. The Committee satisfied itself that the Clauses were just, and on the responsibility of the Committee they were inserted. The case with regard to competition had been altogether exaggerated. It was true the competition existed before, but that was between different companies; but now it would be between a private company and the Water Board with the rates of London behind it. That would be most unfair, and he hoped the House would uphold the decision of the Committee.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said they had heard a great deal about the interests of the Water Companies, but the interests of the consumers appeared to have been overlooked. While it was perfectly proper that the rights of private persons should be safeguarded, it was the duty of the House to see that the rights of the public at large were preserved. If the Water Board was to be the best water company in the world, with the best supply and the best management, as it ought to be unless the Bill absolutely failed in its object, the interests of the people in the districts affected by these Clauses were distinctly injured. Enactments which were practically private Acts of Parliament ought not to be passed in this wholesale fashion; there should be careful investigation made in the districts concerned, as would be done if private Bills were introduced.

*COLONEL BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield) said that Clause 35 dealt with the supply of a portion of his constituency—viz., a part of the parish of Enfield, six miles from Enfield Town. It was impossible for a supply to be given by the Urban District of Enfield, and if the Clause were omitted the only result would be that the local company at Barnet would refuse to spend money in supplying that outlying district. So far from consumers desiring the Clauses to be opposed, it was because they had no fault to find with them that the Clauses were inserted as unopposed Clauses upstairs.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that if it was impossible for the Water Board to supply a particular district, there was no object in passing the Clause, as the company concerned would have a practical monopoly, and would be neither damnified nor benefited by the enactment. Financially, he did not like the Clauses at all. It was perfectly true the Clauses were not opposed before the Committee, but the people interested were the members of the Water Board, a body not yet created, so that it was impossible for them to oppose the Clauses. The position was that at present, while certain companies had a practical monopoly in certain districts, there was a competitive supply which might at any moment, if thought advisable, be brought into operation. The companies were thereby put on their good behaviour. He did not think it would be denied that there was competition at the present moment, and these Clauses would in future give them a statutory monopoly without any power of compensation. He was afraid the position of the consumer would be very seriously injured by these Clauses.

MR. COHEN said that the suggestion made would be a breach of faith on the part of Parliament, which hade xpressly informed the company that their rights should not be affected by this Bill, which only carried out the intention entered into by all parties.

(6.58.) Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 137 ; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 627.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,Rt.HnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles,Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Chamberlain,J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(Warwick,S.W
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H.(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson,Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,Arthur Howard(Hanley
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hozier,Hon. James HenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, CaptainHerbert Merton
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence,Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky,Rt.Hn. WilliamEdw.H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col,Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu,Hon.J.Scott(Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper(Shropshire
Morgan,DavidJ(Walthamstow
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(IsleofWight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson,J. W. (Worcestersh.N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen CharlesP.(Glouc.,Stroud
Asher, Alexander
Asquith,Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randall
Crombie, John William
Davies,M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. CharlesSeale-
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford

Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Weir, James Galloway

Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Samuel and
Mr. Warner.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 38, at end to add 'but no day earlier than the 24th day of June, 1904, shall be appointed as respects any Metropolitan Water Company except with the consent of the Water Company and the Water Board.'"—(*Col. Lockwood.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill.

MR. LOUGH said this was really opening the whole question of the appointed day. During the year and a half which the hon. and gallant Member wished to stereotype, the company would be in possession, and would have no interest in providing for a new supply of water.

MR. WALTER LONG said the alteration moved by his hon. and gallant friend had been agreed between all parties in the House. The intention of the Government was to fix an appointed day upon which all the companies were to be vested in the new Water Board unless postponed by the Local Government Board. It was pointed out at the time by his hon. and gallant friend that the words meant that the Board was to be entitled to bring forward the appointed day contrary to the wishes of the parties concerned. That might involve great injustice to the Water Companies. He did not think any such words were necessary, because he thought it was clear that the power of extension was given to be exercised if for some circumstances it seemed necessary to postpone the day; but if his hon. and gallant friend thought the words in the Clause were capable of the interpretation he had placed upon them, he could not resist the words suggested, because they carried out the original intention of the Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) moved—

"In page 32, line 3, after 'salary,' to insert compensation or annual allowance.'"

Amendment agreed to.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) moved—

"In page 32, line 8, leave out 'pension,' and insert 'compensation or annual allowance.'"

Amendment agreed to.

MR. LOUGH moved to leave out Clause 48. He said the proposal contained in this Clause was one which had never been seen before in connection with the buying up of a Water Company, or any other private property which was required for public purposes. The Clause provided for compensation to the directors of the Water Companies. That was a precedent which they ought not to set up so hastily in this House. It was not in this Bill when it came to the House originally. This compensation would cause a considerable extra charge on the ratepayers of London. There was no basis set out in the Bill on which compensation should take place. The directors were in a very different position from some of those officers of the Water Companies for whose protection the House had passed two Clauses. The directors probably had a considerable interest in the companies, and they would share in the high prices at which the concerns were to be bought. The President of the Local Government Board did not appear to be at all decided in his mind about the wisdom of creating this precedent by the Bill. He left it to his followers behind him. He thought it would have been better if they had not decided in a direction in which the right hon. Gentleman was not willing to lead them. One of these days, when they would have to face their constituents, they might feel that it would have been better not to have taken this course.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 32, line 32, to leave out Clause 48."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

(7.18.) Question put, "That the words of Clause 48 stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 98; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 628.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beckett, Ernest William
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S (Warwick, S. W.
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockie, John
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth)
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J. (W'lthamst'w
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone. W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Cohen and Mr. Bull.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud
Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Denny, Colonel
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Galloway, William Johnson
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (North'nts
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lough and Captain Norton.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON moved an Amendment on Rule 1 of Schedule 3, to provide that if a member of the Water Board is appointed chairman or vice-chairman, the appointment shall not create a casual vacancy.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Schedule 3, page 35, line 2, to leave out all the words after the word 'Board.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 5, at end, to insert the words '2. If a person appointed to be a member of the Water Board is a member of the Council or one of the Councils by whom he is appointed, he shall, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that Council, at the end of that period cease to be a member of the Water Board.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

It being half-past Seven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned until this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON WATER BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [this day] to the Bill, on consideration, as amended.

Which Amendment was—

"In page 35, line 5, at end, to insert the words '2. If a person appointed to be a member of the Water Board is a member of the Council, or one of the Councils by whom he is appointed, he shall, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that Council, at the end of that period cease to be a member of the Water Board."—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(9.0.) **DR. MACNAMARA** said he wished to move the omission of the word "if" in line 1, but he ought to explain that he intended if that were carried to propose consequential Amendments with a view to making the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Battersea read as follows—

"A person appointed to be a member of the Water Board shall be a member of a constituent authority, and, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that authority, shall at the end of that period cease to be a member of the Water Board.'

He moved this Amendment because he thought there had been some misunderstanding in the House as to the meaning of his hon. friend. The object the hon. Gentleman had in view was that nobody should be a member of the Water Board unless he was also a member of the constituent authority—that, in fact, there should not be co-opted members. The Government accepted that in substance.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: No. I did not accept it in that sense.

DR. MACNAMARA said that certainly was the idea which animated the hon. Member for Battersea, and he himself thought, having regard to the fact that £40,000,000 of the ratepayers' money was concerned, the least they could ask was that every member of the Water Board should be a member of a constituent authority, and so amenable to the ratepayers. They were bound to insist that people who got on the Water Board, and had to negotiate the purchase of these great undertakings, should be at all times directly in touch with, and amenable to, the ratepayers. If outside persons were allowed to be appointed, there would be no control over them, and they might do any amount of mischief before they could be got rid of.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment of the Bill—

"In line 1, to leave out the word 'if.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'if' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said there was no doubt that there had been a misunderstanding, but he did not think anybody was to blame. Had he thought that his hon. friend the Member for Battersea had not appreciated the full force of his own Amendment, he would have drawn attention to it. There had been no concealment on the part of the Government.

DR. MACNAMARA: I did not suggest that.

MR. WALTER LONG said the facts were that, as the Bill was originally presented to the House, the members appointed to the Water Board must have been selected from among the elected members of the various constituent authorities. The Joint Committee upstairs, on the representation mainly of the Middlesex County Council, altered that on the ground that the local authority ought to be untrammelled in its selection of a member, and ought to be allowed to select an outside person to represent it if it saw fit. It was all very well in theory to hold that the members of the Board should be in close touch with the electors, but the responsibility of selection rested with the governing body; and they ought surely to be allowed, if they desired to do so, to select the best man they could to represent them, whether an elected member of their own body or not. Hon. Members opposite had dwelt on the complicated nature of this water question probably more than on anything else, and had suggested it would be impossible for the Metropolitan Boroughs to find men possessing the necessary experience for dealing with it. The House had been asked, indeed, to believe that the London County Council was the only body in London which possessed the ability. Hon. Gentlemen opposite accused him of being hostile to the London County Council, without justice; but he thought he might without injustice say of them that they took an exaggerated view of the virtues of the London County Council. They seemed to believe there was nothing in the wide world which required management and administration which the London County Council was not fit to undertake. If there was any justification for that criticism, surely, in the name of common-sense, they should give the constituent authorities the power of going outside their own body in order to get experts. He believed in the principle of popular election, but he realised also that it was possible to ride a hobby too hard, and to say that no man should be allowed to take part in the administration of local affairs unless he was first chosen by the electors would be to shut out many of their most competent men. They would, in fact, run the risk of losing something in the way of successful administration. He held that this was no real departure from the principle of local government; that it would be an advantage to the local authorities to have this option; and that it would be the best way of securing a good body.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said the right hon. Gentleman had very fairly admitted that there had been a misunderstanding, and he fully acquitted him and his colleague of having in any way contributed to the confusion, or to obscuring the point they had had under discussion. It was a pure misunderstanding. It was only right he should say that on November 26th last he had on the Paper an Amendment providing that a member appointed by the constituent authority should cease to be a member of the Water Board if he ceased to be a member of the authority appointing him. When he put that Amendment down he presumed, as he believed every hon. Member on that side of the House did, that only directly elected members were to constitute the water authority. His Amendment of November 26th made that absolutely clear, but his primitive simplicity had led him into the present inadvertence. It was quite as well that it had occurred, because they now found for the first time that the Government intended to allow co-opted members to have seats on the new Water Board

Mr. WALTER LONG: I do not think the hon. Member is quite right in using the word "co-opted." It is generally used when a member is co-opted by the body itself. That is not proposed in this case. We are following precisely the precedent set in the Municipal Corporations Act, which enables a city to elect its mayor from either within or without its own body. It is not proposed to give the Water Board power to co-opt members.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he fully understood that, and he used the word in that sense. But he repeated that they now learnt, for the first time, that it was the intention of the Government that extraneous persons should be appointed by the constituent authority to seats on the Water Board. When he moved his Amendment without comment, he was under the impression that co-opted members were not intended to be placed on the Board, and he certainly only intended that it should apply to directly elected members of the Board. But he now found that its effect would be to penalise the directly elected member as against the co-opted member. For instance, the Battersea Borough Council would probably appoint one of its own directly elected members to the new Water Board. If that gentleman sought re-election to the Council in March next, and the ratepayers rejected him, he would be compelled, by virtue of his rejection at the election for the constituent authority, to resign his seat on the Water Board within two months. But suppose that Chelsea appointed as its representative an extraneous person, he would not have to go before the constituency, and for two or two and a half years, or until such time as the local authority could replace him by a member of their own body, he would be able to do practically as he liked. Surely it was not the intention of the Government that an extraneous or co-opted person should have privileges which were denied to directly elected members.

MR. WALTER LONG: That is not the proposal of the Government. We say that members of the Water Board should remain members for the time of their election to that Board. It was simply and solely to meet the hon. Member's objection that I accepted his Amendment, providing that when a man ceased to be a member of the constituent authority he should also cease to be a member of the Water Board.

MR. JOHN BURNS said it would be intolerable if a Borough Council had not the power to terminate at once the official life of a representative who acted contrary to its wishes.

MR. WALTER LONG said that point was not before the House at all. It was clear, whether the representative on the seat was a member of the Battersea Borough Council or an extraneous person chosen by that body, the Council would have no power over him during the three years he was a member of the Board.

MR. JOHN BURNS said they might not have direct power, but it was possible to bring him in contact with the views of the district, and to subject him to allowable pressure—to, in fact, keep him straight in the narrow path that led to righteousness on the water question—if he were a directly elected member. However, under the circumstances, he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG: No, no.

MR. JOHN BURNS said the House was always a tolerant and generous body. There had been a misunderstanding, and he hoped he would be allowed to withdraw his Amendment, because it would discriminate between an elected member and a member chosen from outside the constituent authority. It had not been his belief that his Amendment would so penalise the member sent up from the constituent authority out of their own number.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

(9.30.) DR. MACNAMARA next proposed an Amendment which, he said would express the original intention of his hon. friend the member for Battersea.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 5, at end, to insert the words,—"2. A person appointed to be a member of the Water Board shall be a member of a constituent authority, and shall, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that authority, at the end of that period cease to be a member of the Water Board.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would reconsider his position in this matter. This did not raise a principle to which he was in any sense committed, and it was obviously not the original intention of the Government. It was put in on the suggestion of one of the outside Councils, and the arguments put forward did not justify such a considerable change. The Amendment would put the representation on a sound basis. It certainly would be illogical if a co-opted member were able to sit on the Board for three years, and a representative member were only allowed to sit while he was a member of the constituent authority. He had never desired to cast any reflection of any kind on the members of the Borough Councils, although they had said that the members of the London County Council who had taken, for many years, the greatest interest in the water question, were more likely to be valuable members of the Water Board. He would turn the tables on the right hon. Gentleman who said that the Borough Councils were eminently capable of dealing with this question. If that were true, he was casting a reflection upon them when he went outside the Borough Councils to obtain members for the Water Board. He was quite content that the Borough Councils should elect one of themselves; he believed that there would always be found one righteous man amongst them. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would not add to the blots on the Bill this system of indirect election.

Captain JESSEL said he did not attach much importance to this point. Municipal bodies were usually very jealous of co-opting anybody; but if there was co-option at all, it was best illustrated by the election of aldermen who did not wish to go to the trouble of a contested election. By co-option they might, for instance, obtain the services of an old water director, who would not take much interest, otherwise, in municipal matters. It would be better not to restrict the choice of Borough Councils, but he suggested that, as there was no great matter of principle involved, the Government should leave it an open question for Members to decide.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he had already frankly acknowledged that in the Bill, as originally presented to the House, membership of the Water Board was confined to members of the constituent authorities; but the Government had adopted the conclusion arrived at by the Joint Select Committee, which had taken a good deal of evidence on the point. In fact they divided upon it, and their recommendation was carried by six to four. He desired to be perfectly frank on this matter. He did not regard the point as important, but he thought hon. Members were riding the idea of popular government too hard when they insisted upon carrying it out in the way proposed by the Amendment. As an illustration, he took such a case as that of Lord Llandaff, who had frequently been referred to. His Lordship would probably be a valuable member of the Water Board, but he was not likely to seek election on the Borough Council.

Dr. MACNAMARA: He might be made an alderman.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he did not agree with that idea of popular government, using the position of alderman for other than municipal purposes, or making it an easy passage to something else. He altogether denied that by the proposals in the Bill they were casting any reflection on the Borough Councils. On the contrary, they were trusting in their judgment in the fullest possible manner. However, for his part he had no personal feeling in the matter; this was no principle of the Bill, and he was perfectly willing to adopt the suggestion of his hon. friend behind him, and to accept the decision the House arrived at.

Mr. CAUSTON said he should like to appeal to hon. Members to remember that if they were to have representatives from the Borough Councils on the Water Board these should be in daily touch with the electors.

Mr. LOUGH said that he understood that the right hon. Gentleman had said on the Committee stage that the constituent bodies should elect one of their own members to represent them. All that the hon. Member for Battersea desired was that if a member ceased to be a member of the constituent body he should retire from the Water Board.

Mr. WALTER LONG said what he had stated was that it was open to the constituent body to select whom they pleased, either one of their own members or anyone else.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said that there was really very little difference between the London Members and the President of the Local Government Board, who had released his followers from Party obligations on this point. They must convert this into a luck-penny, and proceed with it in the spirit of Christian charity. He appealed to hon. Members on the other side of the House to accept the Amendment.

(9.48.) Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 52; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 629.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H
Causton, Richard Knight

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lough, Thomas
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan, V.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt Hon C. R (Northants
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Dr. Macnamara and Mr. Harry Samuel.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bignold, Arthur
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Saville
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fisher, William Hayes
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Maconochie, A. W.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Bull and Mr. Cohen.

MR. LOUGH said he wished to move the ommission of sub-Section (*c*), which was that a shareholder in any of the Water Companies concerned should not be disqualified from serving on the Board. He would not elaborate the point, because the right hon. Gentleman had accepted the principle involved in the Amendment which he had put down with reference to directors. The disqualification which was to be imposed on directors should apply with still greater force to shareholders. When hon. Members were sent to decide a private Bill upstairs, they had to make a declaration that they were not interested in the matter one way or the other; and he thought that every member on the first board should be asked to make a similar statement. The transaction which the first Board would have to carry out would be the greatest that had ever been undertaken in this country. The Water Companies had many shareholders, and, surely, the disqualification which was to be applied to directors should be extended to shareholders. His Amendment would only apply to the first Board, and would not entail a disqualification for more than a year or two.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 22, to leave out sub-Section (*c*)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said that the omission of the sub-Section would not carry out what the hon. Gentleman desired. He had already stated that he thought it was altogether undesirable that directors should be qualified to serve on the Board; but he could not see why the same principle should be laid down as regarded shareholders. That would narrow the area of selection in a manner which would be altogether undesirable. The House might rest perfectly satisfied that any shareholder in a London water company would, if elected to the Board, be actuated by the most honourable motives in the discharge of his duties.

MR. LOUGH said he would withdraw he Amendment, and move it at a later stage.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 24, at end, to insert the words, "A director of a metropolitan Water Company shall, until the compensation payable to the company is determined, be disqualified for being appointed or being a member of the Water Board.'"—(*Mr. Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. LOUGH moved to insert, after "director," the words "or shareholder." He was obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for introducing the Amendment with reference to directors, but directors had no greater interest in companies than shareholders, and very often much less.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill.

"After the word 'director,' to insert the words 'or shareholder.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he should strongly support the Amendment proposed by his hon. friend. Circumstances had come to his knowledge during a long connection with the London water question which showed that it was necessary. Directors were perfectly well-known persons, but shareholders were very little known as such. He had known cases where men had obtained election on metropolitan Borough Councils who were very large shareholders in the Water Companies, the fact not being known at the time by those who returned them. Looking at the enormous sums of money involved, he felt that the Amendment of his hon. friend was necessary.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) said he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not persist with his Amendment. The next thing that would probably be proposed was that no large water ratepayer could be elected to the Board. He was not a water shareholder or director, but he was a large water ratepayer, and he thought if the principle of the Amendment were accepted, that large water ratepayers should not be eligible. An enormous number of men had shares in the Water Companies, and, in future, it would be found that a large number of working men would be holders of the new stock.

MR. CREMER said he had previously moved that no person who had any pecuniary interest in any of the Water Companies should be eligible for election. The Minister in charge of the Bill said that he could not see his way to accept that proposal, as he considered it would narrow the area of choice if they precluded all persons who had any pecuniary interest, large or small, in the existing Water Companies from sitting on the Water Board. He wished to know why the right hon. Gentleman now proposed to exclude directors. He was very anxious that the new Board should start on its career, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Everyone knew that one of the mischievous causes of the terrible results in connection with the Metropolitan Board of Works was that members were pecuniarily interested in questions which came before them. He wanted to prevent that, and to keep this Board clear and above suspicion. Therefore, he hoped that, even at the eleventh hour, the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment. Surely there would be plenty of men available who had no pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in the Water Companies.

*COLONEL BOWLES said that if the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman were carried it would be impossible for a shareholder, who might have only an infinitesimal share in one of the companies, to serve on the Board, and his place would be filled by someone else, with perhaps less knowledge of the subject. If the Amendment was that a shareholder could be elected, but should not be eligible to act until after the purchase had taken place, he would quite agree.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he wished to draw attention to the fact that the Amendment would only operate for one year.

(10.8.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 33, Noes 87. (Division List No. 630.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Kearley, Hudson E.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (Northants
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

Tellers for the Ayes—
Mr. Lough and Captain Norton.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Chamberlain Rt Hn J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Groves, James Grimble
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Richards, Henry Charles
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir William Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Noes—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Words [of Mr. Walter Long's Amendment] inserted.

Mr. WALTER LONG formally moved the following Amendments:—

"Schedule 3, page 35, line 25, leave out 'of the members,' and insert 'the member.'

"Schedule 3, page 35, line 26, leave out 'one.'

"Schedule 3, page 35, line 29, at end, add as a new paragraph,—'4. The members of the Water Board appointed by the Conservators of the River Thames and the Lee Conservancy Board shall not vote or act in respect of any question arising before the Water Board as regards the transfer of any undertaking to the Water Board under this Act.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 4, leave out 'and.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 4, after 'Penge,' insert 'Bexley, Dartford, Erith, and Footscray.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 4, leave out 'twelve,' and insert 'twenty.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 6, leave out from 'Bromley,' to end of line 13, and insert 'three by each of the councils of the urban districts of Erith and Penge, two by each of the councils of the urban districts of Bexley and Dartford, and one by each of the councils of the urban districts of Chislehurst and Footscray.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 39, leave out 'and.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 39, after 'Surbiton,' insert 'Barnes, the Maldens and Coombe, and Wimbledon.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 39, leave out 'sixteen,' and insert 'thirty-three.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 40, leave out 'six,' and insert 'seven.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 40, leave out 'two,' and insert 'ten.'

"Schedule 3, page 36, line 41, leave out from the second 'of,' to the end of line 3, page 37, and insert 'Wimbledon, four by each of the councils of the urban districts of Barnes and Surbiton, three by the council of the urban districts of Esher and the Dittons, two by each of the councils of the urban districts of East and West Molesey and the Maldens and Coombe, and one by the council of the urban district of Ham.'

"Schedule 3, page 37, line 6, after the second 'the,' insert 'constitution.'"

Amendments agreed to.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that of the many matters which had been left over from the Committee stage there was none of greater importance than the question of the limitation of the term of office of the chairman to one year. Letit be assumed that the Water Board had elected the very best possible man for the position—a man who had not only ability and tact, but had experience and knowledge of water questions in addition to a special knowledge of the London water supply. Such a man would become, not the chairman of the Board, but its absolute dictator. There were, perhaps, a number of men who might be able to fulfil the conditions he had laid down, but they could be numbered on the finger of one hand. Let the House assume a chairman of another type—a man who did not combine all the qualifications he had mentioned, but who was, nevertheless, a man of considerable ability and tact. He might be a suitable man, but would not be cognisant of the difficulties of the water supply within the London area. Then the Board would have at its head a man who was unable to completely control it, with the result that the Board would be broken up into cliques, and that factions would arise, knowing that there was no power to get rid of the chairman for four and a half years. He had a more substantial objection to the proposal in the Bill. All precedent was in favour of his Amendment. The Common Council of the great City of London elected its principal officer annually. The London School Board, the London County Council, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the Borough Councils, the Thames Conservancy, and, in fact, everybody in connection with London, elected its chairman annually. Outside the Metropolis the same state of things existed. The mayors of the various municipalities, and the chairmen of the County Councils, and Urban and Rural District Councils, were all elected annually. Again, in the Acts of Parliament bringing Water Boards from various parts of the country into existence, it was specially laid down that the appointment of chairman should be for one year. That provision was inserted in the Derwent Waterworks Bill and the Deal and Dover Water Bill, which were recently passed by this House. He had a still stronger and more apposite case, namely the late Metropolitan Board of Works. They appointed a special committee to inquire into the matter, and, as a result of their inquiry, they passed a resolution limiting the chairman's term of office to one year, although, of course, he could be re-appointed. All he asked was that the Water Board should have the power of appointing a chairman for one year. He should like to direct the attention of the House to the enormous power which would be placed in the hands of the chairman. He would be the acknowledged and representative embodiment of the Board. He would be the officer who would have to be consulted on all points of importance, and therefore he would combine, as it were, the dignity and importance of a mayor of a borough with the knowledge and permanency of a town clerk. He would practically have unlimited power, and, at the same time, unlimited temptation. Under him would be some 500 officials, whose combined salaries would amount to something like £138,000 per annum. He would be the man to whom those officers would look for promotion, and, on the formation of the Board, to be engaged as permanent officers. He would have the run of the office, would be able to devote his whole time to the work, and would be able to exercise the greatest influence on his colleagues. Then, as to patronage; if the chairman was to be appointed for four and a half years, he would largely influence the selection of counsel and of experts. Again, the assessment of the purchase money was a matter of considerable importance, and the chairman, if he were a man of sensitive conscience, might desire to avoid litigation to such an extent as to endanger the interests of the public. He himself had a high regard for vested interests, and he ventured to say that as a Party they were quite prepared to do justice to vested interests.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is getting away from the Question before the House, which is, whether the term of office of the chairman should be for one year.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he was sorry he had digressed; and if he thought the right hon. Gentleman was convinced, he would desist. But a chairman might lose sight of the fact that the shareholders in the Water Companies would be getting superior credit, and, further, that they would be saved all future liability.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Gentleman is again digressing.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he was only endeavouring to show the enormous power that would be in the hands of the chairman if he were appointed for o ur and a half years.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 9, to leave out the words 'vice-chairmen or,' and insert the words 'and vice-chairmen shall be one year, and of.'"—(*Captain Norton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said if he wanted any argument to convince him that the course proposed in the Bill was right, he would have found it in the speech of the hon. and gallant Gentleman. Everything he had said with reference to the chairman went to show the necessity of giving him continuity of office. The hon. and gallant Gentleman said with perfect truth that the chairman might become an extremely important and powerful person. First of all, the duties of the chairman would be to advise and guide the Board on all matters leading up to the purchase, the taking of possession, and the commencement of its duties. Surely it was of the utmost importance that any man going to speak in the name of a Board like this should feel that he had some continuity of power that would enable him not only to begin a transaction but to end it. If he were to be chairman for only one year, he would have a very inferior position to that now proposed in the Bill. The point had been very carefully considered. It was perfectly true that a chairman, if he did his work properly, might look to be re-elected, but he hoped the House would remember two very important facts, which were not matters of opinion. Although he was an Englishman, he believed that the system of local government in Scotland was in many respects superior to the system in England. The provost was elected for three years, and he had heard it pointed out that the position of provost in Scotland was infinitely superior to the position of Mayor in England, because the provost was entitled to speak for his corporation, not for one year, but for three years. If it were answered that there was the opportunity of re-electing the chairman at the end of his year of office, he would point out that the legitimate aspirations of various members to fill the chair had to be considered. The London County Council, for instance, had deliberately decided to have an annual chairman, not because they had not confidence in their chairman, but because they thought it ought to be open to each member of the Council who was fit for it to have his turn at the chair. That was a point of view which had a great deal of attraction for many people, and he thought that in the interests of the water consumers it was desirable to enact that the chairman of the Water Board should hold office for a recognised and defined period. He did not think three years too long to enable him to carry out all the negotiations for purchase, and to commence the duties of supply. The matter had been carefully considered, and he believed that the plan in the Bill was the best.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LOUGH said that as the Bill now stood, the first Water Board would be elected for nearly five years, but the Councils who would have to elect the Board did not know that that duty would be put upon them when they themselves were elected. He therefore thought that a term of office of two years would be quite long enough for the first Board. That would be reasonable, especially as the purchase would be carried through in a year or eighteen months. If the right hon. Gentleman would insert "six" as a compromise he would agree.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 10, to leave out the word 'seven' and insert the word 'five.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press the Amendment. The new Board would be practically only two years in power after the appointed day. The question had been carefully considered, and he thought the arrangement proposed in the Bill was the most convenient.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 21, to leave out the words 'the chairman or vice-chairman, or'; in line 22, to leave out from the word 'Board' to the word 'member' in line 24; and to add at the end of line 26 the words 'and shall also, if he is the chairman or vice-chairman, vacate his office as chairman or vice-chairman.'"—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

*(10.40.) SIR CHARLES DILKE: There are two or three points which I should like to put before the House in connection with this matter, in which I take the deepest interest. I look at it from a point of view which is shared by a great number of Londoners outside this House. I fear that this measure will involve London in an enormous expenditure for the purchase of an insufficient supply of dirty water from a dying river. The first time a cholera scare affects London, I believe it is certain that the new authority will be forced to embark upon an entirely new scheme for the supply of water—a scheme which will involve enormous expenditure, to be carried out by a cumbrous body entirely unfit to undertake engineering operations, which ought to be entrusted to the London County Council. I do not wish to expand these views, but as they have not been put forward, I think they ought to be mentioned before we part with this Bill. The Thames is a dying river. It is drying up, but it is subject to enormous floods, and they bring down a larger amount of water than ever they did before, and the largest amount came down some eight years ago. The drainage system of the valley of the Thames has been so perfected that the Thames now rises almost with the rapidity of a mountain stream, and brings down an immense quantity of water. On the other hand, the minimum amount of water in the Thames is constantly declining, and by far the smallest amount of water ever known passed over Teddington Weir only three years ago. Therefore it will be seen that the Thames is drying up in dry weather and increasing as a flood stream during flood weather.

The Water Companies have been involved, they say, in enormous expenditure for the purpose of storing the water of this flooding, and yet they give a very poor supply. They have told us that an enormous expenditure on reservoirs has enabled them to impound large quantities of water in order to give sufficient time for settlement. The work of the Thames Conservancy has done much to purify the river, but it has allowed a sewage farm system, which as regards dry weather may work well, but during flood causes the whole of the sewage to be swept back into the bed of the stream. This water is a most unsatisfactory supply, and the figures which have been laid before the House will not stand the test of examination. The companies have told us that they succeed in preventing this spoiling of the water in the time of flood, and they state that they have adopted a system of storing the water in order to purify it. Any hon. Member of this House can easily judge for himself whether this is true by taking a bath three or four feet deep, for anyone can see within three days of the flood evidences of discoloration resulting from flood water reflected in the water given to the consumer. Therefore it is impossible to believe that the bulk of the water supplied has been purified and stored in the way we have been told it is stored. The companies tell us that they are now taking part of the water from the underground sand, but the water which they take from the sand is also Thames water. The Thames is a river more than half of which flows underground and out of sight. If you test the amount of water in the Thames at different points, as you come nearer to London it will be found that there is less water in the river. It is a fact that there is more water in the river at Henley than there is 30 or 40 miles lower down. There is in many places an underground Thames; therefore this water, which is said to be taken from the sand, is essentially Thames water, and is liable to the same disturbance from flood. Therefore the more you look into the question of the supply of water from the Thames, the more thoroughly unsatisfactory it will be found to be. Consequently I fear that by this Bill the ratepayers of London are being involved in an enormous expense by transferring the administration of the water supply to a body which will certainly within a very few years be called upon to undertake a vast expenditure in order to bring good water from a distance. The Water Board is an unfit body to be entrusted with a duty which ought to have been thrown upon the London County Council.

*MR. HARRY SAMUEL: I have taken for many years the greatest interest in the whole of this question, but I had not thought it right to intervene on the Report stage of this measure. I should, however, like to say a few words on the general question. I may say that the arguments which have up to now been put forward have not altered in the least my view in regard to the formation of this Water Board. If the view put forward by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean is correct, then the new Water Board will have to take the matter up; but surely that is not an argument against this proposal. The reason I had always advocated the transfer of the Water Companies to the public board, is not that the water directors have been a failure, but because they had strained very largely the powers granted them by Parliament. Take, for instance, the district which I represent. During the recent water famine a very scanty supply of water was given by the companies to the East End of London, and yet the directors felt it to be their duty to charge the consumers for water which they did not supply to them. Therefore I think it is wise to give the management of the water supply to the people themselves. If all the water directors had acted in the same spirit as that which was adopted by the hon. and gallant Member for the Epping Division, we should never have had any difficulty of this sort. We have been fighting in order to give representation to the municipal boroughs upon the governing body for the water supply of London. In other towns throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain the civic authorities have long been the water authorities. Hon. Members opposite have quoted the evidence of witnesses from Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and they have tried to prove that London should be treated with regard to numbers on the managing body in exactly the same manner as provincial towns. But when they come to deal with the question of the Board itself, then for some reason or other hon. Members opposite want the county authority to be made the water authority without any representation being given to the boroughs. That was absolutely inconsistent. Up to the year 1892, the Corporation of the City of London was the only body that possessed the right to promote Bills in Parliament for gas and water. Now we have twenty-eight other boroughs in the Metropolis, and surely they are entitled to a share in the representation on this new Water Board.

With regard to the Royal Commission, my hon. friends opposite have always quoted its Report as one of the reasons why they disapproved of the composition of the Board set up by this Bill. I would point out that there was no such thing as Borough Councils in existence at the time of the sittings of the Royal Commission, and therefore it was perfectly impossible that it could have recommended that any representation should be given to the Borough Councils. As for the decision of the Committee upon this question, it is perfectly well known why that Committee altered its decision. The first decision of the Committee was taken without the evidence being heard on one side. Consequently the noble Lord who was the Chairman of that Committee was afterwards bound to re-open the evidence, and having heard evidence on the other side, the Joint Committee reversed its decision. Therefore, neither the reports of the Royal Commission, nor the result arrived at primarily by the Joint Committee, should have any influence upon this great question. The evidence given by a Mr. Burgess, of the Liverpool Corporation, has been quoted. One fact, however, upon this point is not known, and that is that although Mr. Burgess gave evidence in opposition to this Bill, when I brought a motion forward in Manchester the other day I received a letter from that gentleman asking permission to be allowed to second my motion, which was to the effect that this Bill should be passed into law this Session. It therefore seems rather strange that this same gentleman should second my motion declaring that this Bill was so good that it ought to be carried into law this Session. I should like to know if the House agrees with some words used by the hon. Member for Battersea on the London County Council, for he is reported to have said—

> "It was a great thing that only eight members of the London County Council sitting in the House of Commons should have been able to convert private ownership into ownership by a public authority."

I think I may claim for those London Members who sit around me that more is due to their gentle persuasion than to anything else. I think that on this side of the House we have a right to claim that we have been active in getting what is now provided by this Bill. On behalf of East London I desire to thank my right hon. friend most sincerely for what he has done. I thank him also for the great interest he has shown in the whole question, for the enormous time he has given to it, and the pains he has taken in mastering every sort of detail. Although I have called in question the remarks of the hon. Member for Battersea, I still believe that the hon. Gentlemen opposite will do everything they can to make the action which my right hon. friend has taken productive of great and lasting good.

(11.5.) MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I do not profess, at this stage of the Bill, to be able to throw any fresh light upon this question, nor to use any fresh arguments. I desire to thank the right hon. Gentleman and hon. Gentlemen opposite for the kindness they have extended to me and to my hon. friends behind me, who have had a somewhat difficult task to perform. I cannot, however, let this Bill pass its Third Reading without a protest on my own behalf, and I think I may speak also on behalf of all those sitting on this side of the House. I wish to repeat the protest I have entered before in regard to this Bill being taken at all at this period of the Session. During the initial stages of this measure I regret that the right hon. Gentleman did not take into his consultation those various bodies interested in order that he might have arrived at some better proposals, both in regard to the size and constitution of the Water Board, which might have given more general satisfaction than the proposal contained in this Bill. On this side of the House we have already admitted the very considerable improvements made in the Bill during its passage through the Committee stage, and many of the blemishes have been removed from the measure as it originally stood. These improvements, however, do not affect the question of the real principle of the Bill, and I shall most certainly divide against the Third Reading.

We object to this Bill on the grounds of the unwieldy size of the governing body, which we believe will make it less effective as a real Water Board, which may have to carry out the purchase of the Water Companies. We object to the Bill still more on the ground of the extraordinary constitution of the Water Board itself, the extraordinary system of indirect election which has been adopted, and the passing over of the natural body, which is the central representative body, and which in any other part of England would have been accepted as the primary factor in creating such a Board as this. All the precedents in this matter, and most of the opinions expressed, have really been adverse to the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman, both in regard to the size and the constitution of the Water Board. The hon. Member for Limehouse said it was ridiculous to go back to the Royal Commission and quote that Commission as stating that they would have been adverse to this particular proposal, because, when they reported, the Borough Councils were not in existence. I wish to point out, however, that three hon. Members of this House were members of that Commission, and they included the hon. Member for Tewkesbury the hon. Member for one of the Divisions of Yorkshire, and Lord Llandaff. I wish to say that in the discussion on Lord Llandaff's Amendment the hon. Member for Tewkesbury said that if the Royal Commission had had the opportunity they would not have included the Borough Councils, and I know the same view was held by the hon. Member for one of the Divisions of Yorkshire. Therefore I think I am entitled to say that the Royal Commission would not have brought in this question of the Borough Councils. Not only do I feel that this measure is founded upon lines adverse to ordinary municipal principles, but I feel very strongly that in a Board constituted as is proposed by this Bill the interests of the general community will be subordinated to purely local interests. If you put on any Board a majority of representatives of local interests, they are bound to attend to their local interests. My hon. friend the Member for West Islington moved an Amendment that his own constituency ought not to be called upon to pay any increased water rates.

Mr. LOUGH: I included half London in my Amendment.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I think this question ought to be considered from the point of view of the interests of the general community. I fear that the general idea we have had in our minds in favour of purchase and unification and centralisation will suffer in consequence of this Bill. The only argument which the right hon. gentleman the President of the Local Government Board has advanced against the proposal of the Joint Committee is that this is the only means of harmonising conflicting interests. Where are these conflicting interests? At one time the Borough Councils acknowledged the London County Council as the water authority for London, and until the right hon. Gentleman threw down a sort of apple of discord there was really no difference of interest between those bodies. The only interests which have conflicted have been those of the outer and inner areas, and I contend that these conflicting interests might have been perfectly met by placing this Board, not on the basis of the sanitary authority, but upon the basis of the County Councils.

Then there is a question as to the size of this body. Its constitution is fantastic, but its greatest evil, from the point of view of the consumers and the ratepayers, is its huge size. What we want, in creating a new body of this sort, is a Board which will be workable, economical, and one which will be able to carry out its business with dispatch. Does any human being think that this large and heterogeneous body will be the best to carry out the object in view? I do not understand where the right hon. Gentleman has obtained his opinion in regard to this matter. The only authority he has given us is that expert of experts, Mr. Perrin, but the curious thing about this is that the right hon. Gentleman never produced this expert before the Joint Committee in order to give evidence on this point, although Mr. Perrin did give evidence upon other matters. The evidence given before Lord Cross's Commission declared in favour of a body much smaller than the one which is now proposed, and I am afraid that when we come to the question of purchase we shall find that this body will not be an efficient one, either to conduct the purchase of the Water Companies or to start the administration. They have got to start the matter. The members of this body will for some time hardly know one another by sight. They will have no fixed policy and no officers, and they will have to find new officers or wait until they get possession of the officers of the companies. I am afraid that the question, as put before the arbitrators, will not lead to a satisfactory result. I am quite sure that everyone feels that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board has selected three men, as arbitrators, of great eminence. Nevertheless, in my opinion, while the case of one side will be put with the utmost possible skill, on the other side it can only be put in a clumsy way and without any real information in regard to the matter. I only now wish to enter my protest against the constitution and the size of the Water Board.

In conclusion, I desire to recognise that we have had a certain number of days discussion, and I am anxious to the full to thank the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board for the courteous and the kind way in which he has listened to us and met our objections, for he has readily improved his Bill where he has been able to do so. I can only re-echo what fell from the hon. Member for Battersea, that although we differ from the principle upon which this Board is based, and although we are afraid that it cannot be as successful a body as we had hoped, at the same time we hope that those who constitute the new Water Board, whether they are Members of the London County Council or Members of the Borough Councils, will do their best to make the work of the Board as successful as they possibly can, in spite of the somewhat poor material placed in their hands by the Government under this Bill.

*COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): The question of the water supply of London has been the subject of numerous debates, and has been inquired into by Royal Commissioners and Committees, and it is a topic which has given rise to a great deal of controversy. Judging by the present appearance of the House, it would seem that all the interest in this question is now almost exhausted. The Water Companies have been subjected to a great deal of criticism, and I acknowledge freely that hon. Members opposite were perfectly right in subjecting the Water Companies to such criticism. A part of those criticisms I think were very unfair, but another part of them has been productive of good. Anyhow, all that will pass away in obedience to what I believe is the sentimental cry on the part of the public, which will now be invested with powers through a Water Board. I am bound to say that, speaking personally, I shall be glad to escape from the responsibilities which have rested upon me for some time past—not that I fear those responsibilities, because I have endeavoured to provide for the future wants of the population, but I recognise the fact that the Government were perhaps within their right in yielding to what has become a very popular cry. As a good Conservative Member I am glad that the Government, which I have always been able to support, has found itself able to set this question at rest, at any rate for a time. I think we must all acknowledge the care and trouble which the President of the Local Government Board has given to this question, and the way in which he has endeavoured to hold the scale fairly between those interested and the public. Speaking as one who knows the view of the Water Companies, I think I may say that we are wholly satisfied with the terms accorded to us, and I think the right hon. Gentleman has done his best to treat fairly the various interests affected by this Bill. I agree with hon. Gentlemen opposite that this Board will not produce the most economical and workable body possible, and I cannot believe that the number of this body will produce either a workable or an economical Board. I confess, however, that the moment the right hon. Gentleman based his Bill upon the question of representation, he was bound to have a large body, and he certainly had on his side an expert in Mr. Perrin, and I do not know a greater authority. I may also say that the view taken by the right hon. Gentleman is supported by the engineer of my own company, although I am bound to say that I cannot agree with either of them; nor do I believe that the transfer of the Water Companies from the various Boards to the Water Board will be productive of good to the ratepayers, for I believe the charges on the ratepayers in the future will be even greater than they are at the present time. I do not believe that on this question of the water supply the question of representation should have entered at all. I was in favour of an entirely nominated Board, and I would have had nominees of the Local Government Board, for I believe such a Board would have found the best men, would have been more economical and more favourable in its results to the taxpayer. The question is now settled for the time being, but how long the Metropolis will be able to favour the present system of representation and the working system now produced by the Government, time alone will show. I do not believe that it can be or will be a success, either in regard to the ratepayers of London or those who send their representative to the Water Board.

MR. LOUGH: I wish to refer to the extraordinary circumstances under which these particular matters have been discussed in this House. Never during my experience has a matter been handled in such a way by the House of Commons. Although this Bill was introduced early this year, it was ultimately relegated to two or three days at the close of the Session, and then we were closured.

MR. WALTER LONG: I did not use the Closure.

MR. LOUGH: I do not accuse the right hon. Gentleman of using the Closure, because it is quite as much due to my own friends on this side. Somehow, there has been extremely bad management upon this question. If any impartial witness had been here on Monday last to see the mass of evidence and the numerous documents we had to go through in discussing forty-eight Clauses, all under pressure, in order to try and fall in with the wishes of the House, he would have seen that it was entirely beyond the wit of man to deal with them in this way. Today there has been the same pressure. Why should we now be asked to take the Third Reading without having the Bill reprinted? Great alterations have been made in some of the Clauses, and the schedules have been altered. Why should London be treated in this way? Two or three speakers have suggested that the Liberal Members have rather forsaken the London Liberal Members in this debate, and that we seven have been left alone. I think that is a most unjust reproach to fling at hon. Members on this side, because it is well known that there are scarcely any hon. Members qualified to go into the details of this Bill except London Members. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, who is here now, has assisted us, and many other Liberal Members, deeply interested in London, have shown themselves ready and willing to do as much as they were asked to do. No one can take an active part in a discussion like this except those who represent the locality. I do not desire to make any charge against my hon. friend, but it has been suggested that seven hon. Members were not enough to do the work connected with the opposition to this Bill. I repudiate that assertion altogether. For if my hon. friend, the Member for North Camberwell, had not been so weary after the discussions upon the Education Bill, I am sure we should have been able to give a good account of ourselves.

DR. MACNAMARA: We have done so.

MR. LOUGH: I do not think we have contested this matter as much as we ought to have done. With regard to the measure itself, I would ask—Has it been improved in Committee and on Report? I am willing to give credit for all that has been done. In small points we have secured improvements. The representation of the London County Council has been raised from ten to fourteen, and the size of the Water Board has been reduced by four members. I desire to thank the right hon. Gentleman for making the reference to the arbitrators compulsory. I must say, however, that I do not sympathise so much with my hon. friends who have been so profuse in their gratitude for these concessions. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board has done the best for his own reputation, and for his Party, and I think we should have done better if we had fought this measure in the old Party way, and endeavoured to throw upon the right hon. Gentleman the entire responsibility for the passing of this measure in its present shape. As regards small things some changes have been made, but we must not forget that some of them have been made in response to criticisms on the other side of the House. I cannot help repeating that I think it would have been better to have fough the Bill as hard as we could, and, if we had got nothing by those tactics, to have thrown the responsibility for passing the Bill, in the bad shape in which it is drawn, upon the Government. When we leave these small points out of consideration, is the Bill better than it was originally? I do not think it is. On the contrary, when we come to the close issues and to the real point for which this Board is being constructed, we discover at the last moment, with regard to a most vital matter, that the Board we are setting up is ill-equipped, and will have great difficulty with regard to the most important part of this water question. This Water Board has to administer the water supply not only to the rich, but more especially to the poor, who form 80 per cent. of the inhabitants of this great city. The right hon. Gentleman has admitted that the Clause which we hurriedly carried in regard to settling the charges and equalising them is a very difficult point, and that we had hardly settled it in any final or conclusive way. And we cannot do this now because we have removed the control from the central municipal authority, which controls the water question in other places. We have removed the control and transferred it to a distant and somewhat fantastic authority.

I am for giving over the control of this business to the London County Council. I have read the evidence of nearly all the Reports of Commissions and Committees upon this subject, and I have heard all the debates, and my convictions as to the absolute utility of taking the step which is now proposed are as unshaken to-day as they were at the beginning of these debates. My conviction remains firm that the London County Council ought to have had this difficult business of acquiring the Water Companies' interests entrusted to them; and the President of the Local Government Board has said nothing more unworthy of him, as a Member of the House and a Minister of the Crown, than what he said when he gave as his reason for depriving the County Council of the power of dealing effectively with this business, that it wished to impose rather stringent terms of arbitration. The right hon. Gentleman has spoken cruelly of the London County Council, who are not to blame because they desired to make a good bargain for the people they represented. The London County Council has built up a good record, and industriously they have worked out the water problem for the last ten years. That Council first went into the difficulties of obtaining a supply from Wales, and all the facts the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean has mentioned the London County Council has collected, and the Council are met with an insult from the House—they are put aside as unprofitable servants.

I only wish this House may never regret the step it is taking to-day. Some of my hon. friends have expressed the very hopeful feeling that this Bill may work out right. There is not a man in this House, with regard to a matter of this kind, who will not entertain those benevolent wishes. We all hope that the worst thing we do may turn out well. As patriotic persons we must do so. We have to follow our own judgment, and if we feel that a thing is wrong we should say so to the end. There is a certain arbiter coming which will reveal who was right and who was wrong in this matter. I notice that an authority, whom I am sure everybody in this House will accept, pronounced an opinion upon this Bill last Friday in the constituency of the hon. Member for Poplar. Upon that occasion the right hon.

Gentleman the Member for East Fife said that the President of the Local Government Board had introduced into the House of Commons a most fantastic scheme, which proposed to bring into existence a leviathan body, with unsatisfactory credentials and imperfect efficiency, which was condemned in advance by the majority of the ratepayers of London; and he went on to say that a more conclusive case for investing the London County Council with the management of the London water undertaking it would be impossible to make out. Those were the words of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife. Of course I agree with everything he said, and the only thing I am sorry for is that he did not come here during the debates and help those eight hon. Members who are struggling to put forward those ideas which the right hon. Gentleman defined so well outside the House. I feel that we have made the greatest mistake we could make in regard to this Bill, for we had not given the work to the body which was ready to take it up, and we have constructed with great difficulty this fantastic, leviathan body which the right hon. gentleman the Member for East Fife has denounced. In its reflections the other day *The Times* implied that the Opposition to the Bill is not in earnest, but at least that cannot be said of myself. Throughout I have stuck to the principle that the London County Council should have control. I hope the House will not have to regret the step taken by this Bill, but I fully expect that before many years pass the ratepayers of London will be suffering severely from the administration of the water supply by an inefficient, extravagant, incapable body.

*(11.35.) Mr. WHITMORE said the hon. Member for West Islington had referred to the action of the London Members in connection with this Bill. He was most anxious that the impression should not go abroad that they had not looked after the interests of their constituents. As a matter of fact there had been a very good attendance of London Members on both sides of the House. The hon. Member had quite reasonably boasted that the Liberal Members for London had made a gallant fight in support of their principles in connection with this Bill. There had been a large and constant attendance of Unionist Members. Every Amendment introduced had been fully discussed, and he did not think that it had been in any way prejudicial to the Bill that it had been debated at this period of the Session. He must refer for a moment to the surprising speech of the right hon. Bart. the Member for Forest of Dean, who said that no one had really as yet appreciated the true gravity of this question. The right hon. Baronet said they were about to create a new Board which, at an extravagant price, was going to purchase dirty water, which was being taken from a dying river. He protested that it was almost frivolous at this time of day to describe this as the action that was being taken. The whole question was exhaustively inquired into by Lord Balfour's Commission, and the evidence taken contradicted the observation of the right hon. Gentleman.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE said he had read the evidence given before that Commission.

*Mr. WHITMORE said that every one who had read the Report of the Commission was justified in believing that in the River Thames the consumers had a sufficient supply of adequately good water for thirty years to come. This view was confirmed by the findings of the Llandaff Commission. Though he did not believe that the ratepayers were going to make a good fiscal bargain for years to come out of this undertaking, he maintained that the purchase of the companies and the transfer of the water to a public authority had become a political and administrative necessity; and it was on that ground that he had supported the Bill.

In regard to the constitution of the public authority, he held that the body created by the Bill was necessary for these reasons. To his surprise, some hon. Gentlemen opposite seemed to have thought that there ought to have been a small nominated body. He had even heard the hon. Member for Battersea say that the present water directors would be a more competent body than the new Water Board. That was a strange opinion coming from one who had for years described the water directors as the enemies of the human race. He himself would infinitely have preferred that the new Water Board should have consisted of nine nominated members, but they all knew that the suggestion, if it had been made by the Government, would have been scouted by everyone on the other side of the House. There was the intermediate course suggested by the hon. Baronet the Member for North West Wilts, that members of the Board should be elected by each of the County Councils. That was more or less the principle underlying Lord James's proposal, but it was much objected to on the ground that on every such Board they must have a predominant representation of the London County Council. The moment that was proposed the outside authorities would have said that they would have no more to do with it. Therefore they were thrown back on the proposals of the present Bill. They were not ideal, but as a practical man he acknowledged that they were the only kind which had the least chance of being accepted by the House. As one weary of this long controversy, he was glad to see it taken out of the region of municipal politics, and he rejoiced that the Government had shown the courage and the sagacity to bring these proposals forward. For himself he could only say that stern facts had brought him to acquiesce in the necessity for this Bill, and he hoped all parties would join in trying to make it a success.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he must frankly join the hon. Member for Chelsea in wishing that this question had been dealt with in a different form some years ago. He welcomed the Third Reading of the Bill, because it would for the present terminate the contest which had been going on for several years. The hon. Member for West Islington had spoken almost with anger and irritation because the Members representing the Progressive party did not fight much better than they had done.

MR. LOUGH: I did not say that.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that was the tenour of the hon. gentleman's remarks. He could only say that his colleagues on this side of the House had expressed their opposition to the Bill, perhaps not so often, but quite as sincerely, quite as well informed, and with precisely the same object in view. Some of them had not opposed the Bill in the spirit of the obstinate juryman. He believed that many of the difficulties conjured up by the hon. Member for West Islington would not be realised, for London would prove itself equal to the occasion. To his mind the most sweeping condemnation of the Bill had been pronounced by the hon. and gallant Member for the Epping Division, a staunch supporter of the Government, when he expressed the view that the measure would not be economical but costly to the ratepayers. He read on the front page the significant words that this was a Bill for—

> "Establishing a Water Board to manage the supply of water within London and certain adjoining districts, for transferring to the Water Board the undertakings of the Metropolitan Water Companies, and for other purposes connected therewith."

This was a Bill to manage the water supply, which in the main was drawn from the river Thames, which, if it was not quite so bad and so dirty as the hon. Baronet had said, was still dirty enough. Old Father Thames, which had been the water supply of this city for 800 or 900 years, was becoming, from the point of view of the Water Companies, not so profitable as it had been in the past. They were told that the ugly reservoirs at Staines were only a temporary expedient for the unremediable difficulties due to the shortage of water in the Thames itself. He wanted to tell the President of the Local Government Board that his Department made a great mistake when it did not help the County Council in 1896 to prosecute their Welsh water scheme. The Thames was failing as a watershed, and if at any time through its failure an epidemic of cholera occurred, and the Thames failed them in the absence of a pure watershed, the County Council would be free from blame, and the responsibility for the calamity would lie upon the Government, which had prevented the County Council from obtaining water for London from cloudland amid the Welsh mountains. He appealed to the Government not to allow Kent and Middlesex to detach themselves from their due share in the financial burdens connected with the water supply for the whole of London and surrounding districts. These counties contained wealthy districts, and they ought to contribute their quota of the cost of this undertaking, and by so doing help the poorer districts which were included in the water area. The Government ought in equity and fair play to prevent Kent and the other rich districts from exempting themselves from the liabilities which would be imposed on them by this Bill. He noticed there was a tendency on the part of Kent and Middlesex, and perhaps Essex, to leave the new water supply in the hands of London alone. Londoners would not bless the Government for bringing forward this Bill if these counties were allowed to detach themselves, leaving the poorer districts of the Metropolis to bear the cost of this undertaking. They should not be allowed, for at least twenty-five years, to detach themselves from the financial burdens of this scheme. Personally he was delighted that the Water Bill was now out of the region of municipal politics for the next three or four years. The County Council of London had given some assistance in the passing of this measure, and he hoped that hon. Members opposite who had been inclined to regard the County Council as a *bête noire* would in future show some reciprocity by helping them with respect to other matters to which they would now have more time to devote their attention.

(12.0.) MR. WALTER LONG: I am glad it is not necessary for me to trouble the House with many remarks at this stage of the Bill. I can assure the hon. Member for Battersea that I am at least as glad as he is to see the end of this controversy. I can only hope that the good wishes he and others have been good enough to express as to the future may be fully carried out, for I believe the future of this measure is not so melancholy as some hon. Gentlemen seem to anticipate.

I would like to say one word as to the rather remarkable incursion into the debate of the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean. He has told the House that the London water supply from the Thames is so bad that within a few years it will be necessary to bring good water from a distance. In the name of common-sense, what has that to do with the Bill? He told us that this was a duty which ought to have been thrown on the County Council. Does the right hon. Baronet suggest that this House should have given the County Council power first of all to buy out the companies which up to the present time have supplied London with water, and have done it, on the whole, in an admirable way, and then to secure a new supply from a distance? I doubt very much whether the right hon. Gentleman is right in his contention. My hon. friend the Member for Chelsea pointed out that the evidence of the Commissioners was against that. The Reports of Lord Balfour's Commission and Lord Llandaff's Commission were against the right hon. Gentleman on this particular point. In both Reports it is stated as the result of their inquiries that there was no evidence to justify the general condemnation of the quality of London water, and as regards quantity there was sufficient in the Thames, the Lea, and the Wells, for the supply of London and its surroundings for a considerable time to come. I do not think the predictions of the right hon. Baronet are justified by the evidence we have before us and by the Reports of the Commissioners that heard the evidence. Time alone will show whether he is right or they are right, but even if he is right, I respectfully submit it is no argument against the Third Reading of the Bill which we now ask the House to pass.

The hon. Member for Poplar has advanced several reasons why he thinks the Bill should not be read a third time now, and amongst others he has complained that we have taken it at the wrong time of the Session. I have heard many odd statements made on the other side of the House, but I have never listened to one more remarkable than that. I happened to be a Member of the House when a certain Local Government Bill was introduced, and in order to pass it, the House was kept sitting up to Christmas Day. That was dwelt upon constantly as a virtuous act by hon. Members opposite in their speeches in the country. Why was it a virtue on the part of the Liberal Government to keep the House sitting up to Christmas Day, and even up to the following March, and why is it a vice on the part of this Government to read this Bill a third time at this time of the year? This Bill was not introduced in December. It was introduced immediately after the King's Speech and read a second time. It was then referred to the Joint Committee upstairs. The hon. Gentleman failed altogether to realise that if you are going to deal with a subject of this kind, controversial, technical, and full of detail, and if you are going to send it to a Committee upstairs, it is impossible in the ordinary course of things that it will come back to be dealt with by this House for a considerable time.

Why is it that we are dealing with the Bill now? It is because hon. Gentlemen opposite have taken greater interest, and made even longer speeches, on education than on the London water question. I do not think there is any justification for the complaint that the Bill has been taken at the wrong time of the year. I sympathise with hon. Gentlemen opposite in their desertion by their friends, but I do not think that we have had inferior debates in consequence. Hon. Gentlemen opposite have shown themselves fully capable of bearing the full burden of debate from beginning to end. I do not think there is a single point in the Bill which has not been carefully examined. There is no point of even minor importance which has not been fully debated; no question of principle on which many speeches have not been made three or four times over. What more do you want? What more could you have had if 400 Members had been present?

I take the challenges and criticisms of an hon. friend on my own side as more the result of regret at the prospective death of his own company and other companies than of a true appreciation of the future of the Bill. I am glad that on both sides of the House there have been expressions of gratitude for the work done in the past in the interests of the community by the directors of these companies. Nobody who has studied the question will doubt that the time had come when it was necessary to deal with the London water question definitely. When I came to the Local Government Board I found it was necessary either to allow the proposals of the London County Council to pass or to produce proposals of our own. The suggestion that I have not taken counsel of those mainly concerned in the question is absolutely unfounded. At the request of the late Sir Arthur Arnold I met the Progressive members of the London County Council and heard what they had to say. I informed them of the views of the Government, and offered to consider any suggestions as to compromise, and to meet them if I could. I consulted also with representatives of the metropolitan boroughs and outside areas. What more could I do? It is easy to criticise and condemn these proposals, but I take my stand on the solid fact that no other proposals have been successful. This Bill differs from that of Lord Cross and the proposals put forward by Commissions, but it is because of that difference that the Bill has now reached the Third Reading stage. Nobody can say whether in the result it will be entirely successful, but if the local authorities who will appoint the Board approach their work in a public spirit and with true patriotism, as I do not doubt they will, I believe a Board will be created which will find in the Bill full means to settle this difficult question. I thank hon. Members for the fairness and good humour with which the discussions have been carried on. Though attendance has sometimes been scanty, the debates have been practical and businesslike, and I hope that is a good augury for the future of the Bill, and that the people of London, will find it a real and lasting solution of a question that has long troubled the country.

(12.13) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 28. (Division List No. 631).

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, Rt. HnJ A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Compton, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. HnA Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel, H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cremer, William Randal
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roe, Sir Thomas
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

Bill read the third time and passed.

MAIL SHIPS BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

MR. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty Minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 11th December, 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the present system of reporting industrial accidents.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Appendix (Section 1) to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1901.

NORTH SEA FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS.

Reports of the British delegates attending the International Conferences held at Stockholm, Christiana, and Copenhagen, with respect to fishery and hydrographical investigations in the North Sea, and correspondence relating thereto.

ICHTHYOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

Report of the Committee appointed to inquire and report as to the best means by which the State or local authorities can assist scientific research as applied to problems affecting the fisheries of Great Britain and Ireland; together with Minutes of evidence, appendix, and index.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894-96.

Six orders relating to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamships "Kansas," "Irishman," "Victorian," "Cambrian," "Californian," and "Sylvania"; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Third Report from the Select Committee made, to be printed, and to be considered on Monday next. (No. 194.)

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

House again in Committee (according to Order).

Lord **BURGHCLERE** said the object of the new Clause he now proposed to move was not a novel one, and he would therefore refer to it as briefly as he could, consistently with lucidity. It might be said that this Clause was not germane to the object of the Bill. That was a contention which he would venture to traverse before proceeding to explain the objects of the Clause. He would humbly submit that this new Clause was germane to the Bill, for the reason that the Bill dealt not only with educational matters and the teaching of the children in the schools, but it also embodied many regulations with regard to the management of these structures and the employment of these buildings in any manner in which they could be used for any purpose. He might mention incidentally that he thought this new Clause was germane to the Bill because by this Bill for the first time all ratepayers had a direct interest in the schools in which he hoped to persuade their Lordships meetings ought to be permitted to be held. In the past it was admitted, as he would show, by a Conservative Government in 1892, that it was right that meetings should be allowed to be held in schools which were in receipt of a Parliamentary grant, and that being so, the demand surely came with greater force now that the schools were maintained by the ratepayers who were the people who demanded that meetings should be allowed to be held. The subject was a very old one. He had had the honour of bringing it forward seventeen years previously in the other House of Parliament, at a period when the noble Duke opposite was also a Member, and when he (Lord Burghclere) had the pleasure of sitting on the same side with him. He had also brought it forward in 1892, and upon that occasion it was accepted by Mr. Balfour and the Conservative Government of that day. The object of the new Clause was to enable the inhabitants of a district to hold meetings in the school for which they paid. The necessity for it arose in 1885

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member

with the introduction of the new Franchise Bill of 1884. Because he would venture to point out that this Clause only affected, or should only affect, schools in rural districts where there was no other building sufficiently commodious to permit of a political meeting being held in it; and if the Clause he now proposed did not meet that condition of things he would be glad to introduce suitable words in it to meet that objection. The object was that in out-of-the-way villages, where there were no other suitable buildings in which candidates might address meetings, they should be able to go down and address meetings in the schools. Before 1884, as was well known to noble Lords who had represented county divisions, the electors were fewer, and composed of farmers and others who were able to drive into the market towns to hear the addresses of candidates. In 1884, for the first time, the agricultural labourer, a poor man at the best, was included in the franchise. It was impossible for the agricultural labourer to drive into the market town as the farmers had done, and he certainly thought it was very hard that they should create an electorate of this class and then deny them the opportunity of listening to the politics of the day. Another reason for bringing this proposal forward was this. There was no doubt that these schools had been lent on occasions of this kind, but instances had arisen where the managers had allowed the use of a school to one side and had denied it to the other. There was another reason why it was desirable that the power of giving the use of these schools for meetings should be compulsory rather than permissive. He remembered well, in 1885, when the question of disestablishment was suddenly forced upon the country, and the cry went up that the Church was in danger. At the time of the election, he remembered, in one village, where the clergyman was supreme in the schools, that he allowed one candidate to address a meeting in the school to defend any attacks upon the Church, and when the other candidate came down the rev. gentleman made it a condition of his allowing him to speak in the school that the subject of disestablishment should not be referred to. He ventured to submit that that was hardly a fair way to allow a school to be used for meetings. As he had said, this proposal was accepted in 1892, for the Resolution which he then moved in the House of Commons was practically embodied in this Clause. On that occasion the then Vice-President of the Council, Sir William Hart Dyke, said—

> "That the Government must acknowledge that there is a real grievance to meet as regards the supply of places for political meetings. I wish to state, on behalf of the Government, that we are prepared to fully accept the principle embodied in this Resolution."

If the Government in 1892 was prepared to accept the resolution which this Clause practically embodied, at a time when the schools to which the Clause referred were simply in receipt of Parliamentary grants, how much more ready ought the Government of the present day to be to carry out the pledges given by their predecessors of the same political faith, when the use of the schools was wanted by the ratepayers who desired to hold these meetings in them. He had tried to be as brief as possible. He trusted that this Clause, which was a very harmless one, because it related to both sides of politics, and was merely to enable the poor electors to hear both sides of the subject, would receive the acceptance of their Lordships' House.

Amendment moved—

> "After Clause 7 to insert the following new Clause: '(1) The managers of a public elementary school not provided by the local education authority, and in the case of schools provided by that authority the local education authority shall permit the use of any room in the school on such occasions as do not interfere with the educational purposes of the school, for the purpose of the support of any candidate at a Parliamentary, municipal, or local election, subject to regulations made by the local education authority. (2) The local education authority shall, as soon as possible, make regulations for the purpose of this section, and the regulations shall be binding on managers and on persons obtaining the use of the school."'—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

EARL NELSON said that as a voluntary school manager he had never known so unfair a thing to be done as to allow one side to speak in a school and not the other. He had always insisted in his schools that both sides should be allowed to speak. He quite agreed that it was necessary for the agricultural labourer to be approached, and that it was impossible for him to go to the towns. But these meetings must of necessity take place in the evening, and this Bill was entirely for the education of England. One of the powers which the local governing body possessed under it was the power to use the school for three evenings every week for carrying on education, and if in addition they were to be used for political meetings as well, he did not see how those to whom the unprovided schools belonged would have a chance of using them.

LORD BURGHCLERE said he was quite aware that under the Bill these schools would be taken for three evenings a week for educational purposes, but he would venture to point out to the noble Lord that the Clause applied to schools in the villages of large agricultural constituencies. Take the constituency which he had had the honour to represent. That contained eighty-two villages. With all the desire to give vent to one's oratorical attainments, he would ask the noble Lord whether the demand upon any particular school would be such as to interfere with the educational duties it was necessary to perform there. It would only be used once or twice a year.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY) said he would follow the example of the noble Lord who had just sat down, and comment on this Amendment as briefly as possible. He did not think this was the moment to introduce a Clause such as this. He believed there were provisions in the Ballot Act of 1872 and the Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894 which dealt with this question, and therefore, in his opinion, it would not be wise at the present juncture to introduce such a Clause as this. If introduced at all, it should be introduced in a Bill of a separate character. This proposal had been discussed very fully in the House of Commons. The noble Lord might probably say that the debate was confined to the question of unprovided schools, but he did not know that that, on any particular grounds, made it any easier for them, if they wished to do so, to accept this Amendment. The Amendment applied to all schools. He sympathised with the noble Lord's view, but, as Lord Nelson had pointed out, with perfect justice, at present the schools were taken for three nights for the purposes of education, and if they trespassed still further on their time they would make a great encroachment and take away a great slice of the property of the owners of the schools. He sympathised with the view of the noble Lord that it was somewhat difficult for rural labourers, perhaps, to find opportunities to attend meetings and gather together, unless meetings were conducted in the schools. Speaking as a private individual and as an owner of schools and buildings, he might say he had always placed any buildings he had at the disposal of both political Parties, but that did not justify him in binding a manager to give the use of his schools in that way. He might, therefore, be allowed to hope that the noble Lord would not press this Amendment to a division, as under the present circumstances, and taking into consideration the Acts of Parliament which he had quoted, it would be impossible for their Lordships to accept it.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH expressed the hope that if his noble friend went to a division he would be supported by noble Lords opposite, because his Clause simply endorsed the practice adopted by the noble Lords to allow members of either Party to make use of the schools. His noble friend opposite had stated that he had always allowed the schools to be used in this way, and he had been in the habit of doing the same, and that being so, why should not this Clause be put in the Bill?

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I spoke in that sense purely as a private individual, and I said I did not think I was justified in binding a manager to do that which I was in the habit of doing as a private individual.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH thought that that would not prevent the noble Lord and others voting for this Amendment as private individuals animated by public spirit. The people who refused to lend their schools were not a large class, but a class of very narrow political opinions. He, when a candidate for Parliament of a large rural constituency, was refused the use of a school in one district for the purpose of holding a meeting. What happened then, so far as he was concerned, was that a meeting was held out of doors, at which the clergyman was denounced for his refusal to lend the school in very strong terms, and as a consequence, he (the Earl of Portsmouth) gained a large number of votes which he would not otherwise have secured but for this very intolerant spirit. Surely it was not the desire of this House that that sort of thing should be allowed. Take the case of Wales. In Wales there were as many voluntary schools as board schools. All the rural electors, or a vast majority of them, in Wales were supporters of the Liberal party. The voluntary schools were held by managers or owners who were Conservatives. Public-minded Conservatives like the noble Lord would not think of taking advantage of this state of things, or think of denying the use of the schoolroom to either side, but there were a great many cases where men might be guided by a narrow spirit and do so. To his mind it was a very strong thing to say that the people should not have the use of these schools for political meetings, now that the schools were maintained at the sole cost of the State. His noble friend opposite had condemned his own attitude by saying he spoke as a private individual. Under these circumstances he appealed to their Lordships to say whether it was worth while keeping this grievance alive. He thought this was a justifiable Clause, and he hoped his noble friend would go to a division.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I only wish to add a few words to what has been said from this side of the House. I wish to support most strongly my noble friend who introduced this Amendment. I feel myself that we do not wish to legislate against all owners and managers of these schools, but we wish to illustrate as clearly as possible the principle laid down by the noble Lord last night. With regard to the call for railroad tickets, we know that most people who travel by rail are willing to show their tickets, but because a certain minority are not, a great deal of inconvenience is caused to those who are. It is just the same thing with regard to these schools. I have known over and over again, for no reason whatever, managers refuse to allow their schools to be used on political grounds, and it is for that reason we wish this Clause to be introduced. It will lead to no confusion because the matter will be regulated by the local education authority, and therefore, I strongly press the Government to think over what my noble friends have said upon this matter, and to agree to this Clause.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER: Does the noble Lord who moved this Clause object to add words after the word "shall" to this effect, "If no other suitable place is available"?

LORD BURGHCLERE: I stated in my speech that if my Clause did not cover it, I was willing to add words to do so.

THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM expressed the hope that the Government would not assent to this proposal, which was to place in the hands of the local education authority the power to hand over buildings which were used for educational purposes and make them available for political purposes. He thought it was a very bad principle; in his opinion, in the interests of the schools themselves, politics should be kept outside altogether. They had no security that one local education authority would not favour one Party and another education authority would not favour another, and thus they would have Party feeling brought into play in a sphere where it ought not to exist. It would be against the interest of the schools, and against the interests of the children attending them, to have these buildings made available for political purposes, and upon that ground he hoped their Lordships would not assent to the proposal of the noble Lord.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH asked the noble Lord who moved the Clause whether broken windows and other damage incidental to political meetings, which might be done to these buildings, would be paid for by the local authority.

LORD BURGHCLERE said the local authority, having power to make rules, would necessarily lay it down that the people who hired the school for a particular evening would repair any damage that might be caused.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I do not wish to trespass any further on the time of your Lordships. I am afraid the noble Duke will not accept the Amendment of the noble Lord. I think all the arguments that can be put for and against this Clause has been put before your Lordships, and you now have the unpleasant duty of deciding whether meetings should or should not be allowed of a political character. I do not think this is the time when we should alter this Bill in accordance with the views of the noble Lord, and I have called attention to the fact that Acts of Parliament deal at the present moment with this matter; therefore I am afraid I cannot accept it.

LORD BURGHCLERE submitted with all deference that the noble Marquess was misinformed as to the object of the Clause being introduced into this Bill. It was perfectly true that under the Ballot Act these rooms could be used for the purposes of election, but not for political meetings. It was not the fact, therefore, that there was any provision in any Act of Parliament which dealt with the object he had in view in proposing this Clause. He was extremely sorry that the noble Duke and the noble Marquess could not accept this Clause, but as it was a matter upon which there was very great feeling he was compelled to go to a division.

On Question, objected to. Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 23; Not-Contents, 77.

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THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): Does the noble Lord move his Amendment after this Clause?

VISCOUNT HALIFAX: The Amendment which stands in my name is practically the same as that to be moved by Lord Lytton on the other side, and I am anxious to save the time of the House, and therefore I do not propose to move my Amendment.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND apologised to their Lordships for not having been in the House to move his Amendment when it was first called. He would not have ventured to ask their indulgence in this matter if it had not been that it was somewhat important that it should be submitted for the consideration of that House. This question had been given notice of in the House of Commons but was never considered, owing, as he understood, to the exigencies of time. He did not know that he had very much to say with regard to the matter, because the Clause seemed to him to be so reasonable as to require no argument. It was a Clause merely for the purpose of giving power to the trustees of the schools to lease the schools to the local authority. If the local authority and the owners could agree together upon such a system as should give the local authority the full power of disposal of the school at certain hours, but should reserve the use of that school to the owners during other hours, it seemed to him that in many cases that would be a very useful provision, and one which would remove much friction and difficulty which might otherwise arise. He did not think it necessary to detain their Lordships longer with regard to this provision, which seemed to him so self-evidently desirable. He should like to know whether the Government accepted it. If they did not he might have to discuss its merits.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7, insert the following new Clause, 'The managers of any school not provided by the local education authority may at any time, with the consent of the owners of the school-house, and notwithstanding any provisions of the trust deed, agree with the local education authority to let the school-house on rent to that authority during such hours and with such reservations as to the giving of religious instruction as may be agreed upon, and thereupon and so long as such agreement shall last the school shall be conducted in accordance with such agreement, but otherwise be managed and controlled as a school provided by the local education authority.' "—(*Duke of Northumberland.*)

A NOBLE LORD: Before the noble Duke answers, I wish to ask him whether the arrangement which the noble Duke who last spoke wishes to make cannot now be carried out under the Act of 1870? I know cases where such an arrangement has been carried out with the School Board, and when this Act passes the County Council will stand in the same position as the School Board.

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): I am rather surprised that the noble Duke in moving this Amendment, did not, as suggested by the noble Earl opposite, state, in the necessity for this transfer, why the condition laid down with regard to the voluntary schools in the Act of 1870 does not meet his view and is not sufficient for his purpose. It is perfectly possible now for a voluntary school to be transferred to the education authority upon certain conditions, one of which may be the use by the voluntary managers of the school during certain hours for the purpose of giving religious instruction. The difference which I conceive would be imported by the adoption of this Clause is that the noble Duke would permit an arrangement to be made between the local authorities and the managers which would admit of denominational religious instruction being carried on during school hours. That is to say, a school managed by the local authority under the supervision of the local authority would not be subject to the Cowper-Temple Clause. If I understand rightly that that is the meaning of the noble Duke's Clause, that is a proposal we cannot agree to. The scheme of the Bill is that denominational religious instruction shall continue to be given in the schools now called voluntary schools as it is at present, and that in all schools which are under the local education authority, the Cowper-Temple Clause shall continue to be in force. That is a principle we cannot depart from. We believe that any such provision as the noble Duke asks for would lead to religious difficulties with the local education authority itself.

LORD STANMORE said he only desired to interpose for a moment. One reason for the Clause which the noble Duke had moved was this. Considerable doubt had arisen in the minds of a great number of persons interested in denominational schools as to whether, under the present existing law, they would or would not effect such relief as was there contemplated. A certain number of learned lawyers told them that, under the existing law, it was perfectly competent for such arrangements to be effected; other lawyers, equally learned, told them that such an arrangement could not be effected; he thought, therefore, that it was desirable that this Clause should be introduced in order to make that matter perfectly clear. Its acceptance would confirm that which was already believed to be the existing law by a very large number of persons, while its rejection, on the other hand, although it would no doubt technically leave the law as it was at present, no doubt would be considered as having changed it. He therefore hoped the Government would see their way to accept this or some similar Amendment.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND said he was much obliged to the noble Lord who had just sat down for saying what he had. If the Government were perfectly clear that Clause 7 of this Act did not over-ride the power given to the local authorities by the Act of 1870, that was a very satisfactory interpretation of the Government position. Unfortunately, Parliamentary utterances, however clear, were not the law of the land, and there were great doubts upon this subject. He was no lawyer, but as he read Clause 7 he thought there would be a great many more doubts in the future.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: What part of the Clause?

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND said he did not know that he could point out at the moment what part of the Clause he referred to, but he should have thought the whole of the Clause. If the noble Duke would kindly amend the Clause in the way he thought best and add it to the Bill, and thus make perfectly clear what the law was, he would be greatly obliged to the noble Duke.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said it was perfectly true that the managers of schools were at the present time able to make arrangements to let their schools to local authorities, but what precluded the owners of schools from making these arrangements was that the lease they made with the local authorities had to be made with the consent of the Board of Education, and to all intents and purposes the conditions imposed by the Board of Education in respect of the lease were such as practically amounted to a transfer of the ownership of the school-house from the hands of the denominational managers to the hands of the local authority. This Clause was proposed really very much in the interest of the local authorities and the ratepayers, because, after what had happened with regard to this Bill, with the very best intentions to make the very best of it, it was quite clear, after what fell from the rev. Prelate, the Bishop of London, on the previous day, that it was extremely probable that a great many schools which had every desire to go on would not be able to continue as denominational schools. It is surely very much to the advantage of the local authorities, and very much to the advantage of the ratepayers themselves, that where such a thing occurred the denominational school owners should be able to make terms with the local authority, and should be able to lease their schools to the local authority, and at the same time to be able to retain these rights with regard to them. This Clause, in such a case, would do away with the necessity of building a second school in the area by enabling the managers to grant a lease of this sort. He believed arrangements of this sort would constantly be made if this Clause were accepted. He quite saw that, as the Clause was drawn.

in the last line but two, it would be open to the managers of the school to make conditions as to the religious management, but if this Clause was amended by the Government so that the school leased came under the rule governing the provided schools, that objection would entirely fail, and it would leave the religious instruction to be given by the denominational owners outside the school hours. It seemed to him a Clause which the Government could accept and a Clause that the Opposition could accept. It was really an advantage to the ratepayers. If the Clause were accepted, a query would arise as to whether something should not be brought in to modify Section 23 of the Education Act of 1887.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I submit that the noble Lords supporting this Clause have either been unwilling or have not been able to point out in what respect the existing law of transfer is insufficient. All that the noble Lord who has just sat down has said was that the Clause affecting transfer was under the administration of the Education Department, and that the Education Department makes conditions which prevent this Clause from coming into operation. That is, surely, not a matter for legislation, but one of administration.

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

THE EARL OF LYTTON said that the Amendment standing in his name dealt with a subject which had been discussed on the previous Tuesday by their Lordships upon an Amendment moved by the Viscount Goschen. He did not consider it necessary to go over all the ground covered by some of the speeches made in that discussion, because he thought the equitableness and the justification of his Amendment had been admitted by both sides of the House. It had been admitted by the noble Duke, when he accepted the Amendment of the noble Lord Viscount Goschen. Speaking on the Second Reading of this Bill, the noble Lord the Earl of Rosebery had taunted the Government with having done nothing to meet the grievance of the one-school areas, and on the previous Tuesday had asked what steps the Government had taken to elicit the wishes of the parents in this matter. The proposal he now made was one which did much to remedy the grievance of the one-school areas, and a proposal which was directly concerned with the wishes of the parents, and therefore upon principle, at least, he claimed the support of the noble Lord to his Amendment. The only objection taken by Lord Tweedmouth to the Amendment of the noble Lord (Viscount Goschen) was that it interfered with the unity of an existing system, and that they could not do for secondary education that which they did not do for elementary. As that was the only objection of the noble Lord, it was only fair to claim that when the matter had been arranged for secondary education on the ground of the unity of our education system, it should also be arranged for our elementary education. He therefore claimed his support to this Amendment. He admitted that noble Lords opposite had expressed their desire that nothing which they had said on the subject of secondary education should be taken as a precedent when the subject matter of elementary education came up for discussion. He had, therefore, no wish to make any capital out of what had been said by the noble Viscount, and he would not refer to anything that had been said by noble Lords opposite, except to this extent—that they did not deny that their objection to his Amendment was not one of principle but of practice; they did not deny that it was just in principle, they did not deny that if it were put into practice and made to work it would supply the remedy to the grievance felt with regard to the one-school area, and they did not deny that it was in the interest of religious liberty, and was in accordance with their often reiterated principles that denominational teaching in all schools should be carried on at the expense of the denominations. What noble Lords opposite said was that it did not work out in practice. To that objection he would offer two remarks. In the first place, he would ask their Lordships to notice that the form in which he moved this Amendment differed substantially from the form in which it was moved in the other House, inasmuch as the duty of providing these facilities was in this case simply optional and was therefore left at the discretion of the local authority, which they had been so often asked to trust. In the second place, it would be said that this principle had not up to the present had an opportunity of proving beyond all doubt as to whether it was practicable or otherwise. He might best meet that objection by taking certain concrete instances and trying to prove, as he thought was the case, that in some cases it had been made to work satisfactorily hitherto. He would take the case of Birmingham, a case which was raised in the other House, when these words were used by the Prime Minister, Mr. A. J. Balfour, speaking of the Birmingham plan—

> "He thought that by universal consent the plan did not carry out either the intentions or the wishes of its framers, and it had been abandoned."

It had been since proved that the statement of the Prime Minister was not strictly correct. It was perfectly true that when this system was introduced at Birmingham it was abandoned as unworkable, but another system had been founded, which had continued very successfully down to the present time, and in order to show what that system was he would refer to clause 8 of the regulations of the Birmingham School Board of the present day, amongst which was one by which the School Board was empowered to let its school at a rent of five shillings a day for half an hour's religious instruction on two mornings in the week, when any denominational teacher could come in and give that instruction. That was the principle he now asked their Lordships to sanction by this Amendment, and in testimony of its success in actual work he would cite the opinion of the Birmingham and District Council sub-Committee, which thought the school as a whole could not be said to have proved a failure, and that they believed, from reasons given by those in the highest authority, that it was capable of a further and more satisfactory development. He did not know whether their Lordships were aware that this system was being worked in the Army schools of this country. The Duke of York's Royal Military School at Chelsea was working under the same principle, and every scholar in that school might receive definite religious instruction, in his own belief, from a minister of his own denomination. The parents or guardians had to define the denomination of the child on his entrance into the school, and he had to remain in that denomination as long as he was in the school. That was to prevent any proselytism. He was informed that the Roman Catholic members of the school went out every Monday for an hour to receive their instruction, but that the Church of England clergy and the Presbyterian and Wesleyan ministers came into that school to teach their religion, and that in that school they knew no religious difficulties. In the case of New South Wales the principle was also at work. The Act which established the State schools in New South Wales provided two things; first of all it provided that religious teaching as against denominational teaching should be given in those schools, and beyond that it provided that full denominational religious teaching should be given by the recognised teachers of each religion. He submitted that those cases were sufficient to prove that this principle had been made to work in the past, and he challenged noble Lords who differed from him on this subject to produce instances where it had failed. All he asked was that some encouragement should be given to this principle, in order that use might be made of this facility and that it might be proved beyond dispute whether this system was practicable. He did not ask it on behalf of the Church of England, but in common fairness to all denominations. There appeared to him to be two dangers in this Bill which would, in his opinion, be met by this Amendment. The first was a tendency to a large, possibly, but wholly undesirable increase in denominational schools, because it was laid down in this Bill that the managers of any school which contained thirty members could come upon the public rates and become a school supported by the State. He saw in that a danger, where clerical opinion was opposed to the denominational character of the teaching given in a local school, of the increase and multiplication of these schools in order to obtain the denominational teaching that was desired. The second danger was this. He placed himself amongst those who had serious doubts as to whether this Bill would produce the result which they expected it to produce, namely, the preservation of the denominational character of these schools, and he could not but think that when once these schools were made public schools and supported out of the rates their denominational character was very seriously imperilled, and he might say that this was only a question of time. If that was true, and it came to pass that these schools were to lose their denominational character, a provision of this sort would become necessary, if religion was to be preserved in our schools. All he asked was that an opportunity should be given to theological professors to see whether this proviso was possible. In those places where it was thought it was desirable the authorities would put it into effect, and if it were found not to work it would cease to be carried on. No harm whatever could be done by this extremely moderate proposal, and great interest would be taken in testing this experiment and seeing if it would work. It was a principle which was admitted by all parties to be the soundest and truest settlement of the religious difficulty.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7, to insert the following new Clause, 'The managers of all public elementary schools, whether provided by the local education authority or not, may, at the request of parents of children attending such schools, permit religious instruction to be given to such children according to the tenets and faith of their parents, in the school buildings, at hours other than those assigned for secular instruction without making any charge for the use of such buildings, provided that the instruction be under the direction and management of a responsible person or a responsible authority duly accredited on behalf of the religious community to which the parents concerned belong, and provided that such person or authority, or the accrediting body, shall undertake to defray any necessary cost of such religious instruction, and, if required, extra remuneration of the caretaker of the school buildings, and to make good any damage that may occur.'"—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said he just wished to add to the evidence brought forward by the noble Earl in support of the Amendment before the House, the case of the Drury Lane Day Industrial School. That school was an ordinary board school, except that industrial training formed part of its curriculum, and in that school there was a certain provision for religious teaching under the control of ministers of different denominations. In that school there had never been any friction in the working. With regard to the Jews in the London board schools, there was a separate provision made. There was a provision made for Jewish education in a large school at Kilburn, and there was never any kind of friction there. They had heard a great deal of how desirable it was that the education of this country should not be inferior to the education given abroad, and notably by Germany, but in Germany the whole of the education was under public control, and was supported entirely by public money. It was wholly denominational; the children were brought up according to their parents' wishes, and there was no kind of friction in the matter at all. Sir J. Fitch, just before this matter was brought before the other House, wrote a long letter to *The Times* for the purpose of insisting that this plan was unworkable and produced friction. His letter was full of assertions, but when he was challenged to prove his assertions, Sir J. Fitch could not do so. He had thought fit, however, to write a similar letter for the similar purpose of influencing their Lordships' debate this evening. Again, when he was challenged, he had no answer. It could be proved that this principle could be worked, not only without friction, but in the interest of the Church and of all the denominations. It was, he believed, the object of this Bill to provide for denominational education whenever there was a demand for it. As the noble Earl had told their Lordships, the Bill did provide for denominational education under Clauses 8 and 9. He thought hose were very valuable Clauses, but, at the same time, as the noble Lord had pointed out, it was a very expensive way of providing denominational education, and the consequence was that if they insisted that facilities should be granted, such as the Amendment proposed, it would result in a great saving with regard to the rates, and it would do something, and he thought a very great deal, to preserve in the future the denominational character of our schools, without inflicting the slightest hardship.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER said he should very much regret if the Amendment, which had been moved in so careful and thoughtful a speech by the noble Earl, whose part in these debates he was sure they all welcomed, did not elicit some of the strong, and, as he thought, widely distributed feeling upon this subject which he believed existed both in this House and in the country at large. The noble Earl was well justified in saying that the great preponderance of argument and reason was in favour of some such plan as he had suggested. For his own part, the reasons which seemed to him to converge to that conclusion were of more kinds than one. They were all human, and when anyone took a particular course people were disposed to ask what he was aiming at, and to presume he was aiming at something favourable to himself and to his friends. So in the present case he said frankly that he was aiming at something favourable to the cause for which he was concerned, namely, the giving of denominational teaching to the children of his own denomination. But he felt equally clearly that the proposals of the noble Earl would do every justice to those whom on many of these points he was obliged to treat as opponents, and those two results were about equally balanced. His one claim or right to speak upon this particular matter was that his diocese contained a very large proportion of those great areas which surrounded our growing towns, and which had practically created new cities where before there were fields, and of which the Metropolis had the lion's share. In all those areas, broadly speaking, denominational education had no chance, for all the education was now provided by the School Boards, as it would be in the future by the local authorities. Therefore, those who were anxious, as His Majesty's Government were, to meet the fair claims of the denominationalists would see that there was a very real need—a very real grievance, he might almost call it—to be met. Turning to the other side of the matter, they had defended, as they felt bound to defend, the schools of the Church, but he thought they had never denied, as he certainly himself had never denied, the fact that the case where the maintenance of these schools pressed hardly upon the Nonconformists was the case of a district in which the Church school was the only school in the area. What, then, was it necessary and right for them to do in regard to that grievance? It was necessary and right to meet it in every way they could, and if it were possible, in every one of those schools for the noble Lord's Clause to come into effect, it was quite evident that while denominational teaching was carried on there would be an open door to Nonconformist teachers to come in and teach Nonconformist children. He knew what was said with regard to that; he knew that it was said to be an old snare, and that it was well known that Nonconformists could not take advantage of it. If anyone were inclined to take up that objection, he would ask the objector whether he had considered the new provision in this very Bill which rendered it possible in all schools to have Nonconformist teachers. The acceptance of the noble Lord's Clause, which enabled such teaching to be given combined with the effect of that Clause in the Bill which provided the teachers to give it. It appeared to him a means of alleviating the Nonconformist grievance, which he for one should not only claim as a great concession, but which he cordially desired. Speaking for himself, and, he believed, his brethren upon the Episcopal Benches, they wished to do to their neighbours as they would have their neighbours do to them. The Cowper-Temple Clause was valued for one particular purpose, and while it carried out that purpose it had an incidental result which might quite easily be dropped off. The Cowper-Temple Clause provided, as its main purpose, that in schools publicly provided there should be undenominational instruction. Its incidental effect was that it excluded all other kinds of teaching. In this instance, if the Amendment were admitted, nothing would be done to touch the effect of the Cowper-Temple Clause with regard to its main effect. It was his opinion that an Amendment of this kind would long ago have had a great deal more support and gone a great deal further, and would have now been part of the law of the land, had there not been on the part of the teachers opposition to the imposition of a test. He did not think that any fears or anxiety as to the imposition of a test in this matter were in the least likely to be justified, and there was the less ground under a Bill which would open new posts to Nonconformists.

Another LORD said he did not know what view their Lordships would take of the Clause moved by the noble Earl, but he could not help thinking that the acceptance of it by this House this afternoon would be of exceptional value. If the Government thought it was not important at this time to make so important a change in the Bill, then they might perhaps consider the desirability of giving the House another opportunity of meeting the Nonconformists' claims. He appealed to the noble Lord opposite to say whether the Clause proposed did not give them the opportunity of doing justice in this matter.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I associate myself with the two speakers who have gone before me in congratulating the noble Earl upon the way in which he has moved this Clause. So plausibly has he moved the Clause that if it were allowed to go to a division now the plausibility of the noble Lord might have persuaded your Lordships to vote in its favour. But, although it was put forward so skilfully, the Clause, as it is at present, has neither practicability nor popularity. I think, my Lords, the practicability of this Clause, or rather the impracticability of it, is shown by the letter to which the noble Lord opposite alluded, the letter of Sir Joshua Fitch in yesterday's *Times*. The noble Lord said that Sir Joshua Fitch was somewhat of an opportunist in his opinion.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said he did not in the least say that he was an opportunist in regard to his own opinion, but that he had thought it worth while to publish both letters before this debate came on in order to insist on his own views.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I lay the greatest possible value on the opinion of Sir Joshua Fitch, and the letter he wrote to *The Times* to my mind puts plainly and clearly what would be the position of the schools of this country if this Clause were allowed to be passed. Therefore, as the question has been raised with regard to Sir Joshua Fitch, I shall ask to be allowed to quote to your Lordships one sentence of his letter with regard to the position in which our schools would be if this Clause is allowed to pass—

> "We shall have, for example, in a town in which there are several places of worship, a few children, at the hour assigned for the religious lesson in the school, going in different directions, some, it may be, to the parish church, where there is an Evangelical rector, some to a Presbyterian or Congregational chapel, and some to a High Anglican 'Mass.' They would all be expected to return and pursue the regular course of school studies at the end of the hour."

I would ask any one of your Lordships who has had any experience in the education of children in various localities as to whether if this Clause were accepted that would be desirable.

*EARL SPENCER: I do not quite see how this letter which the noble Marquess quotes can have any connection with the present Amendment; there is no mention of places of worship in the Clause before your Lordships.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The interruption of the noble Lord is allowable, and I am quite willing to try and prove the connection. By this Clause it is permissible for all these ministers of religion to educate their children according to their own lights. What would be the result of such a condition of things? In the opinion of Sir Joshua Fitch it would be what I have quoted. I drop that point there with this remark, that I think that that paragraph is very appropriate to that condition of affairs; let me now go on to deal with what would be the condition of affairs from another point of view if this Clause were accepted. I have endeavoured to prove to your Lordships in the first place that it is impracticable. I now say that the Clause if passed would be absolutely unpopular with all those it was intended to benefit. The right rev. Prelate who preceded me dealt with the manner in which this Clause, as amended, would deal with the clergy of this country. He alluded more to the clergy of the large towns than to the country clergyman. What would the country clergyman say if this Clause were accepted? He would say that his position would be absolutely impossible. He would be having quarrels in the parish if the Nonconformist minister came into his school and interfered with his teachers. And what would be the position of the Nonconformist minister? Surely he would say, "The Church of England, with its large establishment of competent teachers, would flood the board schools; and the provisions would therefore be not in their favour, because the Church of England is better organised." There, once for all, you have the Nonconformist and the Church of England clergyman at sixes and sevens with each other. Then what would the teacher say? He would be in a harder position than either. He would naturally say, "I have the task of disciplining this school, but if I am to be interfered with by each of these ministers, who come down upon me whenever they please, what chance have I of maintaining discipline? My position is absolutely intolerable." Therefore you have all the three whom you desire to benefit set at variance if this Clause is accepted. I do not think my noble friends opposite will say I am out of order if I again quote the letter of Sir Joshua Fitch with regard to the teachers. Sir Joshua Fitch says—

> "The effect of the adoption of such a plan on the general discipline of the school, and on the authority of the head teacher, would be disastrous."

For these reasons it is impossible for the Government to accept the Clause proposed by the noble Earl.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said the Clause moved by the noble Earl opposite was not a Clause which provided that the children were to go to Church outside the school; on the contrary, it was a Clause to provide that denominational religious instruction should be given in the school; and the letter of Sir Joshua Fitch to *The Times* had nothing to do with the matter. The noble Marquess had said that the Clause would be unpopular with the country clergy. He knew something of the country clergyman, and in all his schools, and in nearly all the schools he knew of that sort, the clergymen would be all willing and glad that the Dissenting Minister should come into their school and teach his religion to the children of his denomination. It had attained a very large support from all the clergymen of the Church of England, and when it was said by the noble Marquess that the clergy would not like it, he ventured to dispute that statement altogether. Did not the noble Marquess know that this system prevailed in New South Wales without any friction whatever, and that the whole of the statistics brought forward by the noble Earl opposite showed that the system worked well in Birmingham and other schools, with no friction whatever, and did not the noble Marquess know that the teachers were quite as willing as the clergy to give the different denominations this opportunity?

*THE LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER said the noble Lord had never been a country clergyman, whereas he had been in that position, and he knew what the opinion of the country clergyman was on such a matter as this. He believed they would welcome it as a matter of simple justice. He had no doubt that the Government would tell their Lordships that to accept such a Clause as this would destroy the symmetry of the Bill which had been prepared by them. What was that compared to the rights of the parents to say what religion their children should be taught? He stood up for the rights of the parents in this matter. For many long years he had advocated a scheme almost exactly similar, and had advocated that, especially in all our widespread country parishes which had only one school, there should be facilities given for Nonconformist teachers to teach all the children of Nonconformist parents in the schools. He knew there were difficulties in the way of carrying out this scheme, but under this Bill those difficulties would disappear, because upon the teaching staff of the under this Bill there could be one representative Nonconformist who could teach the children of his denomination. The country clergyman had far too much common sense not to welcome this Clause. It was not proposed by this Amendment that children should be drawn to different places of worship. What was suggested by the Clause was that there should be a room in the school during the hours of religious instruction, where the parents might have their children taught in the tenets of the religion which they professed. He believed that this Clause, if accepted, would work perfectly easily.

*Lord REAY said he only wished to say a very few words. This Amendment, in his opinion, was not necessary. He believed the managers of schools had the right to dispose of school buildings, when not used for instruction under the Code. All the arguments of the noble Marquess were directed against giving the religious instruction contemplated by the Amendment during school hours. The noble Marquess seemed to think that these facilities were to be given during school hours, but they had nothing whatever to do with the time table. What was intended by the Amendment was that these facilities should be given outside the school hours

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: I think the noble Lord is wrong in that. The terms of the Amendment are "at hours other than those assigned for secular instruction," but I think the direct intention is that this religious instruction shall be given during school hours.

*Lord REAY said if that was intended it was not what he understood. He had gathered from the speech of the Mover of this Amendment that this instruction was to be given not in substitution, but as a supplement, to the regular religious instruction during the meeting of the school. Of course, if the noble Duke was right, the objections so well put by Sir Joshua Fitch did apply, and he would vote against the Amendment. He had also risen to answer the question put to him on the previous evening by the noble Viscount—Lord Halifax—who had stated that the Gospel of St. John had been excluded from the syllabus of religious instruction in the London board schools. Since 1891 that Gospel had been included every year, and was now included in the Scripture Syllabus. The information supplied to the noble Viscount had therefore been inaccurate. As regards the noble Viscount's allegation that teachers were prohibited from explaining passages in the Prophecies as alluding to Our Lord, he could find no trace of such prohibition. The only instructions given to the teachers were that they should teach in accordance with the provisions of Sections 7 and 14 of the Act of 1870, in letter and in spirit.

The Lord Bishop of WINCHESTER said so much had been made of the view that was likely to be taken by the clergy in this matter, that it was excusable that more than one member of the Episcopal Bench should intervene in the debate. References had been made to the letter of Sir Joshua Fitch, and any man who had the interest of education at heart derived great value from that gentleman's opinion. He had never read a letter of Sir Joshua Fitch without finding that he had gained something from it, and the matter in question had been laid before them with all the wealth of experience which Sir Joshua possessed, but Sir Joshua Fitch's words had been used tonight as an answer to quite a different proposal from that to which his words had been directed. The proposal against which they had been directed—a proposal which had been frequently made in these debates—was that the managers should be compelled, at the request of a certain number of parents, to make such arrangements as were here described, but the noble Lord's proposal was that the managers should be left a discretion in the matter. He, personally, was prepared to trust the managers, and he entered a respectful protest against words which had been written against the forcing of such an arrangement upon the managers being used against the suggestion that the managers should do as they pleased. He saw great difficulty in such a plan as this working in the great board schools of our large towns, and personally, if he were a manager of one of these schools, he would be very loth to take advantage of this privilege. But it was an entirely different thing in the country districts, and even though the noble Marquess who was responsible for the Board of Education believed the country clergy would not like it, he might safely leave it to those to answer who spoke in a special manner for a few of the clergy in this matter. While it was certain that there would be many men in the country who would view it a little jealously, he was perfectly certain that the majority of the country clergy would welcome the proposal as a matter of fairness, and would follow it out in practice, and they would find that it would work exceedingly well. He ventured to think that attention had not been given to the words of his brother the Bishop of Rochester when he pointed out that the Bill introduced a large number of Nonconformist teachers into our country schools, who would be the very people who would give this instruction if the Nonconformist ministers were not there to do so. At all events, he hoped it would be made perfectly clear to the public that, so far as the Bishops were concerned, they desired that these facilities should be given to their Nonconformist friends, to whom they wished justice to be done, and that if objections came to the proposal they did not come from the Episcopal Bench. Their Lordships would well remember the message of the Primate in which he said, had strength been permitted to him, he would have pleaded specially for such arrangements under this new Bill as would make it impossible for any sense of grievance to remain among the Nonconformists; and as the carrying of this Clause would be exactly the thing to give effect to the wish expressed by the Primate, he earnestly hoped it would be accepted.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I think this discussion has been sufficiently prolonged, because, so far as I can see, the arguments have pointed entirely to one side, with one exception, and some statements in a letter that has been referred to, which, as has already been pointed out, do not apply to the Amendment in question. The noble Earl who brought forward this question with so much cleverness challenged me so directly to give him my support that I am bound to say that whatever my support may be worth, though I fear it may not be so beneficial as he may think, but rather damaging than otherwise, he is fully entitled to have, and shall have it. But I fear he rather underrated his own case. This is a system which is adopted throughout the whole of the British Empire with the exception of these islands. In all our self-governing Australian Colonies this system has been adopted, and has worked without friction and with admirable results. I do not anticipate so fortunate a course for it within this kingdom of England, but I am encouraged by the assurance of the right rev. occupants of the Episcopal Bench that if the Government accept it they, at any rate, will endeavour to give it a fair trial, and that therefore we may hope to see this system attempted in our schools, and thus force into them, that which I fear this Bill has not, the germ of a national system of education. My noble friend the Chairman of the London School Board has said this Clause is unnecessary. I do not venture to strive with my noble friend in argument on questions relating to education, but I would venture to point out that even if it should be unnecessary—and with regard to that I have my doubts also—it will be valuable as an indication to the managers. The managers may have willingness in their minds, but, perplexed as to what is and is not in the Bill, they may be doubtful as to their powers to carry this out. Therefore I think that this is a valuable indication, and its value cannot be overestimated in this country. I believe this Clause would be very valuable in conjunction with the Clause you are able to pass into law. But, though it is likely to be valuable, it will not settle the question. I share the misgivings of the noble Earl who put forward this Amendment as to the effect of the Bill; but at any rate it will be a sign of grace and liberality and of hope for the future which I do not care to minimise.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY said: This proposal was discussed several times in the Diocesan Synods, a body of clergy and laity, and they had come to the conclusion that in Church schools it was desirable to give these facilities to Nonconformist teaching. That decision was, after a considerable discussion, arrived at almost unanimously. The clergy at first, as the noble Lord who spoke on behalf of the Government suggested, regarded it with suspicion; but, after the question had been before them on several occasions they had seen it was fair, and, as fair-minded men, they were entirely prepared to accept it.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I wish to say one or two words upon this question. I rather differ from what has been said by noble Lords in support of this Clause, and feel great difficulty in going against the decision of the Government in this matter. I understood the noble Marquess who represents the Education Department to say there was great practical difficulty in introducing this Clause into the Bill; the Bishop of Winchester admitted that there would be great difficulty in applying it to the great board schools.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: The difficulty I saw was applying it compulsorily, which was the proposal made before. It makes all the difference in the world when the decision is to be left to the managers.

*EARL SPENCER: But is it of much use? If there is much difficulty in applying it in the great School Boards, is it right to apply it elsewhere? A good guide in these matters generally is to see what the authorities have to say upon the subject, and I understand the noble Marquess that it would not be practicable to carry out this Clause if it were accepted.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: What I said was that it would not give satisfaction to all those denominations which it is intended to benefit. I said the Nonconformists would not like it, the clergy would not like it, and the managers would not like it. That is the line I take.

*EARL SPENCER: I quite adopt what the noble Marquess says. If the various denominations dislike this Amendment, I am not in favour of introducing it. Why do they dislike it? Because they think it will operate to their disadvantage. For these reasons I am seriously not disposed to vote in favour of the Amendment which has been proposed by the noble Earl extremely ably and very skilfully, and therefore I certainly shall support the Government if, as I understand, they are not ready to adopt the proposal of the noble Earl.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, I am quite willing to admit, and it must be admitted by everyone, that there is a great deal in the principle of this Amendment to which we can all give our assent. The position is rather a complicated position, and I must endeavour, with your Lordships' permission, to explain as well as I can what that position is. This is part of a proposal brought forward in the other House by Lord Hugh Cecil. This, I admit, is not the whole of that proposal, and it may not be exposed to all the difficulties to which the whole of that proposal is exposed, but it is part of that proposal and embodies the principle proposed by Lord Hugh Cecil in the other House. The Prime Minister, speaking on behalf of the Government, so far admitted the justice of the principle that he said that if it had been embodied in a Bill, and that he had been asked to vote for the Second Reading of such a Bill, he could not refuse to vote for it, and he actually did not vote against it in the division that was taken in the House; but he stated with equal clearness—with perfect and absolute clearness—that the Government were not prepared at this stage of this measure to introduce fresh matter of controversy. My Lords, I think this matter is so important that I dare say the House will forgive me for committing a breach of order and quoting words used by a responsible Minister in charge of a Bill in the other House. He said—

> "He did not see that it was now practical at all. If this were embodied in the Bill, and they were now engaged in a debate on the Second Reading of the Bill, he would go with the noble Lord without scruple; but if any vote of his in favour of reading this Clause a second time was to be taken as a pledge that the Government were going to make themselves responsible for any proposal of that kind, he thought they would be greatly misleading the House, by adopting any such suggestion. Under these circumstances he could not vote against the Clause, but he should abstain from recording his vote on the question."

And, as a fact, he walked out of the House when the division was called. I think those words fully show how utterly impracticable a measure it would be to send this Clause back for discussion at this period of the session to the other House. This proposal has two sides, but only one of them has been much referred to in the discussion that has taken place; in fact the noble Earl on the Cross Benches who is going to support the Clause referred exclusively to one side of the proposal. It is a proposal that in denominational schools Nonconformist religious teaching shall be admitted under certain conditions. We are bound to take the declaration of the Episcopal Bench that this would, generally speaking, be not unwillingly received by the managers of the voluntary schools. I venture to think their acquiescence in it would not be by any means universal, but I am bound to take the opinion of the Episcopal Bench that the clergy would not be against it; but it may be conceived that the prelates who have taken part in this discussion would have considered it to be an inequitable arrangement if it had been a one-sided arrangement. The proposal which they support is that this shall apply not only to the non-provided schools but to the provided schools also. Am I right? [Hear, hear!] Then I am right. It is to admit Church teaching into what are now called board schools.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: Where the managers desire.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That is exactly the point. That is the objection. The local authority has to decide whether this admission of the Church teacher in the schools is to be permitted or not; that is to say, the local authority is to decide whether in certain cases the Cowper-Temple Clause is to be abrogated or maintained as it is now. Well, my Lords, we contend that the possibility of raising such a question will lead to interminable discussion, not only among the members of the local education authority themselves, but also in the election for the appointment of the local authority. It raises the whole question. We have, as I said before on a previous Amendment this evening, adopted a principle in this Bill by which we leave the question of denominational instruction where it was. We leave the denominational instruction to be given in voluntary schools where it was; and we leave it subject to the Cowper-Temple Clause in every case in the provided schools. The question whether denominational instruction is, under certain conditions, to be permitted in the provided schools cannot fail to raise religious discussions in the debates of every local education authority in the country, and for that reason the Government cannot consent to the introduction, especially at this stage of the Bill, of this Amendment, knowing the interminable length to which the discussions would be prolonged if such a Clause were sent back to the other House. Therefore we cannot agree to the acceptance of this proposal. I do not think that this point has been quite understood, because some noble Lords appear to be under the impression that this can already be done. I think some reference has been made to what is still going on at Birmingham. At Birmingham it is said that some of the schools are let at a certain rate to denominations for religious instruction within those schools at hours before or after the school hours. Well, my Lords, that, it appears, can be done under the existing law, but what this Amendment will effect depends upon the words in the proposal of the noble Earl, that religious instruction may be given "at hours other than those assigned for secular instruction;" that is to say, at hours within which the attendance of children is compulsory, and religious instruction at hours other than those at which attendance is compulsory can be permitted now by the School Board without, as is done in Birmingham, infringing the Cowper-Temple Clause. But, without abrogating the Cowper-Temple Clause, religious instruction can be given during the hours of compulsory attendance. This proposal does, therefore, amount to giving to the local authority in every county, and in every borough, the power, if it thinks fit, of abrogating to that extent the Cowper-Temple Clause, and our contention is that such a power cannot be given to a local authority without the certainty of raising prolonged, acrimonious, and probably interminable disputes upon the religious question, and it is on these grounds that we must object to this proposal.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I only want to ask one question of the noble Duke. He thinks the great danger of this Clause will be to introduce the religious question into the election of the local authority.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: And into their discussions.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Does the noble Duke really suppose that if this

Bill passes without this Clause the election of the local authority will be conducted without reference to the religious question?

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Clause 8:—

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 19, leave out 'and' and insert 'or'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Agreed to.

The Earl of Rosebery.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 20, leave out 'and' and insert 'or'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said the Amendment which he desired to move was to insert in line 30, after the word "school," the words "not provided by the local education authority." He did so for this reason. As the Clause now stood, the local authority would be hampered in its operation by the first Section of the Clause. For instance, if the local authority should have come into the possession of a school which required such an enlargement as to practically constitute a new school, then the local authority might be prevented from carrying out this improvement, say, by ten ratepayers, or by any little clique of persons, or by someone who wished to bring in an independent school, a school he would say of this or that denomination not necessarily representing the sentiments of the neighbourhood. He ventured to ask for the insertion of these words because he could not understand why, or on what grounds of public interest, the local authority should be hampered in its operations by exposing itself to local opposition of this kind. They might assume that the local authority represented the spirit of educational progress and efficiency, and to insert all these hampering provisions was really to turn this Education Bill into a measure with a spoke in almost every wheel. Therefore, without detaining the House further he asked that those words should be inserted.

Amendment moved—

"'In page 5, line 30, after 'school," insert "not provided by the local education authority.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK thought the proposal was very hard, because it would allow the possibility of opposition whenever the local authority wished to enlarge one of the schools provided by the County Council. Surely this was a matter in which the County Council might be allowed to form their own opinion, and act according to that opinion, without being hampered in the way they would be if these words were not inserted in the Clause.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The speeches upon this Amendment seem to me to go a great deal beyond the Amendment. As I understand it, the right rev. Prelate would wish to give the power of providing a local elementary school whenever they thought fit, and would not give a *locus standi* to the ratepayers to propose any alternative. But he only applies his principle to the last sub-Section which provides for an enlargement of the public elementary school, which may amount to the provision of a new school. The whole Clause goes on the principle that equal facilities are to be given to the local education authority, or to the denominations, to provide a school, and it leaves it to the Board of Education to decide, after hearing the evidence, which proposal is most n the public interest. I cannot see the object of making a departure from the equal treatment of schools of all characters in the last sub-Section.

LORD RIBBLESDALE contended that under the rather elaborate and in some ways hampering provisions of this Clause the education authority which happened to take over a non-provided school which was in such a state that it required enlarging to such an extent that it almost amounted to rebuilding would not, if the Lord Bishop of Hereford's Amendment were accepted, be obliged to go through all these precautionary and elaborate provisions which were set out in the Clause.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: They have only to give notice of their intention.

LORD RIBBLESDALE replied that giving notice was often a very long business.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

*LORD REAY said that in big towns it was of the utmost importance that when the necessity arose, or was likely to arise, for a new school, the site should be acquired, without giving public notice, by a private bargain. It was a great advantage to conclude a private bargain and to avoid the procedure of compulsory acquisition. This applied to the area which was already built over; it also applied to areas where no extensive building operations had as yet taken place, but where they foresaw that extensive building operations would occur, and where consequently there would be a considerable rise in the value of property. This Clause prescribed that the local education authority must give public notice of its intention, and the "other persons" mentioned in the Clause would also have to give notice of their intention; but it would obviously be much easier for private individuals such as those "other persons" to acquire sites by private bargain than it would be for the local education authority, who, of course, had to obtain sanction for their expenditure. At the present time School Boards constantly acquired sites by private bargain, and he did not need to indicate that this was a great financial protection to the ratepayers. As this Bill mentioned in the next Clause that they must have regard to the "economy of the rates," he thought he was justified in asking whether under Clause 8 the present situation would be altered, or whether it would be in the power of education authorities to obtain, at all events, the same facilities which undoubtedly these "other persons" would have to acquire sites without proclaiming publicly that it was their intention to acquire them. As regards the building of the school, the Department would, he supposed, have the same power which it exercised now. What he had mentioned only applied to the site and not to the building of the school.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I fail to see how it is possible for the local authority to acquire a site under this provision, in anticipation of the notice which they have to give. The noble Lord wishes the authority to acquire a site, and then he thinks that they may find that permission to build a new school will not be given. For their own protection it seems to me that they must get permission first.

*LORD REAY said that at present if the site was not required there was no difficulty in disposing of it. It was obviously in favour of the ratepayer that they should have this power, and that this risk should be run. At the present time the risk could be run and there was nothing to prevent it, but as this Clause was drafted he was afraid that in future it would be especially in populous and growing towns a very serious disadvantage if the local authority had to give public notice before they acquired a site.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not see how the difficulty is to be got over. The point is one which is quite new to me, but I will undertake to consider the matter and give the noble Lord an answer on Report.

Clause 8 agreed to.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF said he did not intend to move his new Clauses in the form in which they stood on the Paper, and he thought it would not be unfair to ask the noble Duke to deal with the First Clause he had on the Paper on Report. As to Clause (*b*) he should not trouble their Lordships with it at all.

Clause 9:—

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that two Amendments stood on the Paper in his name, but, as he wished to be able to save their Lordships one speech, if they would allow him to deal with both those Amendments at the same time, he would be able to put the matter before them more clearly than if he was obliged to take the Amendments one by one, which would necessitate him repeating his arguments. This Clause dealt with schools already recognised as public elementary schools. Clause 8 dealt with new schools, and provided that when it was proposed to build a new school certain persons might appear and might make objections. Either the managers, the local education authority, or any ten ratepayers could object. He wished, first of all, to call their Lordships' attention to the effect of the Clause as it stood. The Bill provided in Clause 9 that—

> "The Board of Education shall, without unnecessary delay, determine in case of dispute whether a school is necessary or not."

Then followed words to the effect that in so determining they should be bound by certain considerations. The last words of the Clause go on to provide as follows—

> "But a school already recognised as a public elementary school shall not be considered unnecessary in which the number of scholars in average attendance, as computed by the Board of Education, is not less than thirty."

He wished to call their Lordships' attention to the way in which this proposal would work. The Clause as it stood left it to their Lordships to draw the inference that the Board of Education was to decide when a dispute might arise, but it did not say between whom, and, therefore, it left open a rather important question, but it said that the persons who disputed the necessity of a school might go before the Board of Education. Then the Clause proceeded to say that no such schools should be considered unnecessary. That was to say that no question might be raised as to the necessity of a school which had thirty children or more in average attendance. He invited their Lordships to consider for a few moments how this Clause would work. The plan of the Bill was to place all control in the hands of the local authority as representing the ratepayers, and to oblige the ratepayers to pay or to maintain all the schools which were necessary, but at the same time they proceeded to say to the County Council, when they took over these schools, "You have got to pay for them all but you are not to be allowed to raise a question as to whether any of these existing schools are necessary if they have thirty children attending them." It appeared to him that that restriction did away with the whole value of the Clause. What was the good of first telling a local authority that they might raise a question, and then practically withdrawing that permission? He was under the impression that the Government desired to trust the local authority. If they wished to trust the local authority why should they not allow them to raise questions before the Board of Education as to whether any school within their area was necessary or not. He would give their Lordships a few practical illustrations as to how this Clause would work. He had taken the returns of the Board of Education for the year 1901-02, and he would tell the House how this provision would work. He would first take as an example the county of Bedfordshire. In the county of Bedford there were 158 schools, which would all be taken over by the local authority, and which would have to be maintained by them. They would be allowed to raise this question with regard to seven school only out of those 158. He was bound to say that this happened to be a very extreme case. He would now quote the statistics for the county of Hampshire. There they had 379 schools and they would only be allowed to raise the question with regard to thirty-eight of that total, because there were only thirty-eight schools which had under thirty children in average attendance. He also wished to observe that in the county of Hampshire they had twenty-eight schools with between thirty and forty children in average attendance, twenty-two schools with between forty and fifty children, and there were fifty schools with pupils and scholars numbering between thirty and fifty, in regard to which the local authority would not be allowed to raise this question. He did not propose to give the local authority any power to abolish the school upon its own *ipse dixit*, but what he maintained was that if they carried out the principle of the Bill properly they ought to allow the local authority to raise the question as to the necessity of any school before the Board of Education. In the county of Northumberland there were 306 schools. In that county they had a right to raise the question with regard to thirty-two only. In the county of Northumberland there were thirty-eight schools with scholars numbering between thirty and forty, and they could not raise the question. There were also twenty-nine schools with between forty and fifty children, and they could not raise the question, and yet the ratepayers would have to pay for all those schools, although they would not be allowed to ask this question. In Worcestershire there were 281 schools, and there they could raise questions with regard to twenty schools. In the county of Lancashire, with 1,065 schools, they could only raise this question with regard to twenty-seven of them. He submitted that by this Clause they were tying the hands of the local authority in a way in which they ought not to tie them. The local authority consisted of representatives of the ratepayers and they were placing upon the ratepayers a very heavy burden under this Bill. Therefore, the least they could do was that if the local education authority, after reviewing the schools handed over to them, thought any of them were unnecessary, they should be allowed to place the case before the Board of Education. Surely it was not unreasonable to allow this. He wished to call their Lordships' attention to his Amendment, in order to show how he proposed to deal with this matter. If their Lordships would look at his Amendment, they would find that it made the following provision—

> "A local education authority may inquire as to the necessity of any school already recognised as a public elementary school, and may, with the consent of the managers, declare any such school to be unnecessary. In the event of the managers dissenting, the local education authority may appeal to the Board of Education, who shall, without unnecessary delay, determine the dispute, and who."

And then they were to be governed by those considerations already enumerated in the Bill. Their Lordships would see that he had very carefully limited the right of raising questions to the local authority alone. He did not think it would be right that the ratepayers, or any of the other named bodies, should raise this question, but it seemed to him only simple justice that the local authority, who had got to maintain those schools in the future, should be allowed to consider whether the burden which was being placed upon them was one which ought to be borne by them. He would give an illustration from his own personal experience as to how this Bill would work. It so happened that there was a parish in Warwickshire in which Lord Ribblesdale owned one village, and relatives of his owned the other. Each of those villages had a small and inefficient school, with between thirty and forty children in average attendance. Some years ago they closed the school belonging to his relatives, and required the children to walk about half-a-mile further to Lord Ribblesdale's village school, and now that rural school had been converted into a fairly good one. But suppose this Bill came into operation, and they had not joined those two schools, the ratepayers of Warwickshire, without any right to raise any question, would have been obliged to keep up those two schools, and maintain them for all time. The instance he had given was not an isolated case at all. Take the case of a village where there was a small Dissenting school and a Church school, and where the population were about equally divided between them. He knew such a case where the two schools were amalgamated, and where a good thriving school had been the result of such amalgamation. But supposing they had not come to that arrangement, and this Bill had come into force, the ratepayers of Warwickshire would have been compelled, without any means of protecting themselves, to keep up those two schools, and to maintain those two inefficient schools instead of the one good school. He ventured to submit that the sting of the Government Clause was contained in the tail. They began by professing to allow the local authority to inquire, but they ended by saying that practically they were not to inquire in regard to any schools at all. Those were the reasons which he ventured to submit why their Lordships should accept his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 5, line 33, leave out from the beginning of the Clause to the first 'in' in line 35, and insert—'A local education authority may inquire as to the necessity of any school already recognised as a public elementary school, and may, with the consent of the managers, declare any such school to be unnecesary. In the event of the managers dissenting, the local education authority may appeal to the Board of Education, who shall, without unnecessary delay, determine the dispute, and who'; line 38, leave out from 'rates' to the end of clause."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think that the first part of this Amendment is entirely unnecessary, and the effect of the Amendment is entirely contained in the second part. The first part seems to me to be unnecessary, because it is already provided for in the first words of Clause 7. Under Clause 7 it is provided that—

> "The local education authority shall maintain and keep efficient all public elementary schools within their area which are necessary."

Of course, in order to decide whether they will acquire them or not, they must first establish that they are necessary.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN pointed out that by the Clause, as it stood, they were forbidden to inquire.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The noble Lord acknowledges himself that the concluding words are the important words.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I did not admit that.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The concluding words of Clause 9 are—

> "But a school already recognised as a public elementary school shall not be considered unnecessary in which the number of scholars in average attendance, as computed by the Board of Education, is not less than thirty."

As regards existing schools, I wish to point out that they are all at present necessary, because the Department only gives a grant to schools which in its opinion are necessary. Therefore, as to existing schools, I do not see the difficulty which is anticipated by the noble Lord will arise. In the cases which the noble Earl has quoted it seems to me perfectly easy for the local authority concerned to do away with any school which, in their judgment, is unnecessary by arrangement with the managers. What inducement has any body of managers to keep up the fabric and provide for the repairs of a school which is unnecessary, and which can be equally well provided for by the accommodation in another school. The object of these words in the Clause is to provide an equitable supplement to the provision of Clause 8 in regard to the providing of new schools. We have thought it right to give to the local authority, under certain conditions, the power to provide a new school, even if there is not an actual deficiency of accommodation in the old one; but it is clear that this power might be exercised in such a way as to be inequitable to an existing school. The local authority might build a new school, and in that way deprive the existing school of the greater part of its scholars, and probably this would be a voluntary school. The Government provide by this Clause that so long as the number of thirty children, which is already recognised in the Code, are in average attendance, that school shall not be deemed unnecessary. I do not see in what other way we could give an equitable protection to existing denominational schools.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said the answer which the noble Duke had just made was no answer to the case which he had put to the Committee at all. He asked what was the reason for this proposal. In the first place, he did not admit that Clause 7 in any way directed an inquiry into all the existing schools, and what he pointed out was that these words at the end of Clause 9 made such an inquiry absolutely impossible in many cases. The words said that they should not inquire. Then the noble Duke said that Clause 9 was intended as a supplement to Clause 8. With all due respect, he submitted that that was not the proper way of describing it, because, while Clause 8 dealt with new schools, Clause 9 dealt with all existing schools, and to such new schools as might hereafter be permitted under Clause 8. He would now take the noble Duke's other point. He had said that he must protect the rights of minorities, and that it was possible that a local authority might build a new school in an unfair manner so as to destroy an existing school. But how could that happen? No school could be built which could become a public elementary school without due notice, and without there was every opportunity given for persons, including the managers of any existing school, to object and to be heard by the Board of Education. Those words were retained in the Clause, and so such a school could not become a public elementary school unless the Board of Education had permitted it to do so.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Board of Education may consider that there is a case for a new school, but it may also consider that it would not be just to the denominational school that it should be deemed unnecessary, because its average attendance was diminished.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said the noble Duke made two suppositions in favour of the authorities which existed under this Bill. He assumed that the local authority wished, without good reason, to build a second school.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I say that the new school may be necessary.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that in the second place no new school could be built without the permission of the Board of Education, and the noble Duke assumed also that the Board of Education was not able to judge whether it was a right case for building a new school or not.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I have stated that there may be a perfectly good case for a new school, but not for the extinction of the old school.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN asked if the noble Duke would give him any reason why the local authority, which had got to pay for the school, was not to be allowed to raise the question of whether what it had to pay for was necessary and ought to exist. He did not ask for any arbitrary power to extinguish the school, but in common justice to the ratepayers who would have to pay for these schools, their representatives, if they thought fit, ought to be allowed to raise the question before the Board of Education.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: These small denominational schools for years past had been maintained under great difficulties.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I never raised that question.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I think that we owe to those gentlemen who have been responsible for the maintenance of those small denominational schools a debt of gratitude, and if we were to allow them to be swept out of existence we should be unfaithful to those who have done so much for education in the past. That is the reason why we propose to maintain the present schools. This is no question of creating new schools, and schools with an average attendance of thirty children have always been considered as existing schools in the past. These schools have been kept up at great deprivation, and it is simply a debt of honour, and we are bound to maintain them.

*LORD REAY pointed out that in a case where there were two provided schools, each with thirty children, and where it would obviously promote both efficiency and economy that those schools should be amalgamated, the local authority, by this proposal, would be powerless. He did not see why they could not trust the local education authority in the first instance and the Board of Education in case of a difference of opinion to settle the question. Why should the Board of Education be hampered in the decision it had to give when a dispute arose? If his noble friend went to a division he should certainly vote for his Amendment.

LORD BURGHCLERE said that the provision made by this Bill was a most wasteful arrangement from the point of view of the ratepayers. They were going to maintain all these small schools of thirty children, and yet the Government professed that they had brought in a Bill for improving education. No doubt the new authorities would do their best to make those schools efficient, but he wished to point out that they would have to have a teaching staff just as large for thirty children as for schools with 150 children in order to make it efficient. Therefore, if the schools were to be made efficient, as he supposed was intended in the case of voluntary schools, they would be imposing upon the ratepayers a great and wasteful expense which would not be necessary if they allowed the schools to amalgamate.

LORD HERRIES pointed out that the Roman Catholics had a great number of these small schools which were acknowledged by the Department. He was afraid that the question of the rates might have considerable weight with the local authority, and might decide to put an end to these small denominational schools. There was in a small town in his own neighbourhood a Church of England school, a Wesleyan school, and a Roman Catholic school, and he doubted whether the average attendance was much above thirty children. In such cases there would be a very great inducement on the part of the ratepayers to close one of those schools in order to save the rates. All those schools had been acknowledged for a great number of years, and had been efficiently conducted; and he thought it would be hard upon the denomination to which they belonged that they should be put an end to merely because the local authority thought they were not necessary, without perhaps taking into consideration the question of the religion of the parents who sent their children to those schools. Such schools might be closed simply because the local authority thought that, having regard to the economy of the rates, those schools should no longer exist.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that he never proposed that the local authorities should have power to close such schools.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK said that it appeared to him that if anybody objected the whole matter went before the Board of Education, which would have to decide whether a new school was necessary. In coming to that conclusion, there was a distinct indication that the managers of any existing school might object to the establishment of a new school by the County Council. If there was a proposal by the County Council to have a new school, it was quite right that there should be an opportunity of going to the Board of Education to have the case heard, and to decide whether on the whole they thought it was right for the County Council to have a new school or not. When they came to the next Clause, which the noble Duke said was intimately connected with Clause 8, then it came to this—that those words at the end of the ninth Clause would stereotype for ever any school that had not less than thirty children in average attendance. It was not as if the proposal of his noble friend gave power to the County Council to abolish such schools. His proposal was simply that those schools should not be stereotyped, and that it should be possible for the County Council to go to the Board of Education and ask them to consider whether or no a certain school should be kept up. In spite of what had fallen from his noble friend behind him, he thought good grounds had been put forward showing that the circumstances connected with these schools should be weighed by the Board of Education. If their Lordships would look at the words they would see that in determining whether a school should be kept up or not, the Board of Education had to have regard to the interests of secular instruction, to the wishes of the parents, and also to the education of the children. That would apply to cases where the minority consisted of any particular denomination. They also had to have regard to the economy of the rates. Surely that was protection enough without stereotyping these schools simply because they happened to have thirty scholars. He hoped that the Government would see that these words would hamper the action of the County Council, and might possibly put a charge upon the rates which the ratepayers ought not to be charged with.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER said it had been pointed out that it was desirable that they should give greater liberty in this matter. This was just an instance of the kind of harm that came from the inveterate and unhappy prejudice against denominational schools which prevailed on the other side of the House. If it were possible to regard the Board of Education as being permanently a fair and impartial arbiter between the denominational and undenominational schools, without prejudice against either class of schools, we should then probably be very much more ready to see matters of this kind entrusted to its arbitration. But we know the forces in the country hostile to denominationalism which operate upon some of our public bodies, and they will certainly tell upon the Department which comes under varying political influences. Therefore, having regard to all the circumstances, they were obliged rather to welcome, when it came from the Government, a permanent statutory security for the small denominational schools.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH assured the right rev. Prelate that noble Lords on that Bench were not in the least moved by any question of prejudice against denominational schools. Their view was simply that it was not wise to lay down the limit of thirty as a test of whether a school should be considered efficient or not. The test should be whether the school was efficient and necessary. It seemed to him that to maintain a school that was inefficient, simply because there were thirty children attending it, was doing a very wasteful thing, and was imposing an altogether unfair burden upon the ratepayers.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX was quite sure that the words proposed by the Earl of Camperdown in their working were likely to do great injustice to small denominational schools, and he trusted the Government would not consent to alter the Clause as proposed by the Bill in this respect.

VISCOUNT LLANDAFF said that in his opinion what the noble Lord had pointed out did not seem to represent the effect of the law at the present moment. At the present time, a school which had got thirty scholars, and was efficient, was entitled to claim a grant, and to continue to receive the education grants which were now given. Therefore, they were not stereotyping anything that did not already exist.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY said that every one of these schools must be an efficient school under the general law, and the County Council were bound to keep them up as efficient schools; therefore, the word inefficient introduced just now could not apply to any school kept up by the County Council. He was a little startled when he heard the argument that schools of 150 children did not require any more teaching staff than schools of thirty.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Do not the right rev. Prelates forget that in future these schools have to be kept up by the public. That fact seems to have been left out of consideration by my noble friend, Lord Herries, who spoke of a small but deserving school of which he was cognisant on his estate.

LORD HERRIES: Not on my estate.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: At any rate, it was a school where the total attendance averaged thirty scholars. But surely, if you wish to have a really great national system of education, you do not wish to stereotype for all time these small and petty denominational schools? What you wish to do, I presume, is to strengthen the strong denominational schools, and maintain those that are efficient; but to keep scattered all over the country at the expense of the ratepayers these small schools, seems to me to be something of an injustice. I must say that I think the right rev. Prelate who presides over the See of Rochester rather let the cat out of the bag when he said his object was to stereotype for all time these small schools at the expense of the public.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It is quite a mistake to suppose that a small school must necessarily be an inefficient school. A school with an average attendance of thirty is, in some respects, an ideal school, because it can be managed by one teacher. With regard to the noble Lord's point about existing small schools, and never getting rid of them, I should like to make a little further inquiry into the matter. I cannot conceive why under this Bill it should be the object of anyone to maintain two expensive schools when one large school would meet the necessity of the case. This Clause was introduced for the purpose of enabling the previous Clause 8 to work more equitably. We thought it right to give to the local education authority, or to any denominational body, as the case may be, power of providing a new school, even though there might not be a deficiency in school places. We think that the power may be very fairly exercised in a parish where there is now only a denominational school, but where there is a large majority of Nonconformists. As noble Lords are aware, under the present system, if there is not a deficiency in school places a provided school cannot be built. This Bill enables the sanction of the Education Department to be given in order that such a school may be built, and it may be quite right that such a school should be built. But we do not think it would be right at the same time to crush out of existence the denominational school which has been built with the knowledge and approval of the Government, and upon which a certain amount of capital expenditure may have been laid out. We do not think that such a school ought to be crushed out of existence so long as it can maintain an average attendance of thirty children.

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Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 29, leave out the second 'the' and insert 'a.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Agreed to.

*LORD KINNAIRD asked whether there would be any public notification as to who would take the place of any foundation managers who retired, or in case vacancies were caused by death, or from any other cause. He wished also to add a few words to his proposed Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 7, line 7, after sub-Section (2) insert as a new sub-Section: '(3) Any future manager shall be chosen from a list prepared by the Trustees and advertised in the usual public place in the district, any ratepayer shall be eligible to have his name inserted on this list, prepared by the Trustees having been duly proposed and seconded after due notice given.'"—(*Lord Kinnaird.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The managers will have to be chosen under the provisions of the trust deeds. The noble Lord's Amendment proposes to override the trust deeds, and suggests that they should be elected from a list of ratepayers.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

LORD HERRIES moved a new Clause providing an appeal to the Board of Education if the managers of any school or college felt aggrieved by the action of the local education authority. The object of the Clause was to prevent any injustice being done to the managers by the action of the local authority. They might occasionally find cases in which it was possible that the local authority might do some injustice to the managers of the local schools. He must say that the fact that the local authorities in some places exercised their powers over rather restricted areas supported him in the belief that there was some possibility occasionally of some ill-feeling or prejudice, or some act of fanaticism, which would induce the local authority not to be altogether fair and just to all the schools under their control. It was for that reason he thought it would be best to give a general power of appeal to the Board of Education. The Board of Education was situated in a more serene atmosphere than was always to be found in local districts, and, besides that, even the local authorities were subject to the control of the permanent officials, who were able to look at these questions very often without any political bias. For those reasons he begged to move that this general power of appeal should be given to the managers of all schools. There was one particular point which he thought was rather important, and that was the question of books. Under the Bill, as it stood, it would be possible for the local authority to prescribe any text books they might please. Upon questions of history he could quite understand the local authority having very strong feelings on the subject, and they might supply text books on matters of history which might be altogether unsatisfactory to the denomination to which the school might belong. In circumstances of that sort it was quite fair that there should be an appeal to the Board of Education. It was to prevent any possibility of an injustice being done to the managers that he desired to add this Clause, which enabled any managers affected to appeal to the Board of Education.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The noble Lord has raised a question which, to my mind, is already dealt with by this Bill. He proposes now a Clause which seems to relate more to higher education. I do not think it is necessary for the noble Lord to press the Clause, because already provision is made in Clause 7, Section 3, for the determination of disputes. Therefore it is quite unnecessary to include this general power of appeal, which would do more harm than good. If my noble friend will turn to page 4, and look at Section 3, he will find that that entirely meets the question he has raised.

LORD HERRIES asked if that would cover every case throughout the Bill.

The MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Certainly.

LORD HERRIES said that in case of small differences arising between the managers of the school and the education authority, under Part II., as well as under Part III., there was no appeal provided for, and one did not see where the difference came in.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13:—

The EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that the first part of Clause 13 provided—

"The local education authority may group under one body of managers any public elementary schools provided by them, and may also, with the consent of the managers of the schools, group under one body of managers any such schools not so provided."

It might happen that the local education authority would think it was to group, say three or four schools, and that the managers of one of those schools could withhold their consent. It seemed to him to be rather hard, if that consent was unreasonably withheld, that this should be allowed to spoil the scheme, and consequently he proposed his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 7, after 'provided,' insert 'provided always that if, in the opinion of the local authority, the consent of the managers of one or more of such schools be withheld unreasonably, the local authority may appeal to the Board of Education, who, after due inquiry, shall determine the dispute."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The grouping of schools would, no doubt, be extremely convenient, but I think it would be inexpedient for schools which were unwilling. The principle of the

Bill is to keep denominational schools, as far as we possibly can, in the position in which they are at present, and to group schools, even to others of their own denomination, might deprive the school of its special character. I should object a good deal to the power which it is proposed to thrust upon the Board of Education to settle these sort of differences, and it seems almost impossible for the Board of Education to undertake such a duty. We think that, on the whole, the best thing to do is to adhere to the provisions of the Bill, which require the consent of the managers. Probably all parties will agree, but in a great majority of cases the grouping will be to their mutual advantage.

Amendment negatived.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said he would not detain their Lordships very long on the Amendment he now moved. It was provided in the Bill that there might be groups of schools. It was also provided in those schools that with the consent of all parties concerned, including the managers and the local education authority, the schools might be grouped in certain areas in certain numbers. It seemed to him that the Government had given an indication of their willingness that these schools, by means of the managers of the groups, should receive money, for in the second Schedule, on page 20, line 25, it was provided that a certain surplus of money from the Parliamentary grants which was not needed to pay outstanding liabilities might be paid over for the benefit of any general fund applicable for these purposes; so that the principle was not only that there might be groups of schools, but a certain small sum of money might be paid to them. Therefore they might receive money, but it was nowhere stated that they might receive, if the managers of the several schools in the group were prepared to pay it, the surplus resources of those several schools. It might be said that anybody could receive what another man was willing to pay unless the conditions of the gift and the receipt of it were unlawful, and that therefore, if the managers of any school in the group desired to pay over any of the resources in their hands to be dealt with by the council of the grouped schools, they could do so, and the council might receive what was granted to them. That was the reason why he had proposed the perfectly voluntary power which was contained in the following words to be inserted in the Clause after the word "education:" "And the body of managers of any grouped schools may receive and dispose of the pecuniary resources of any schools within the group." The reason why he put in the words in this form was that everybody knew that while, no doubt, the associaton of schools would very frequently lead to the more efficient and economical administration of their affairs, that was not the principal purpose for which the schools were grouped. A right rev. Prelate from the Bench behind him said yesterday that the poor schools must get the rich schools to help them. That was quite true, and unless the poor schools succeeded in getting the rich schools to help them they could not be saved from bankruptcy. Therefore their Lordships would see that it was a matter of grave practical importance that every encouragement should be given to those who were rich to overcome their natural selfishness and to join a group of schools with a view of contributing from their abundant resources to supply the needs of the poorer schools. He thought it would contribute greatly to induce them to do so if he could persuade the Government just to put on the face of the Bill a provision of the kind included in his Amendment, because it would mean that in their view this was the natural consequence of grouping. It would help them greatly, in case a selfish school tried to stand out, to be able to point to this Amendment, and state that it was contemplated by Parliament that such a thing as this was a natural thing to take place. That was the purpose for which he proposed that those words should be introduced. He did not say that these words conferred any new power, but they expressed a purpose, and they showed what Parliament thought was the normal state of things which ought to exist in a set of grouped schools. It was for this purpose alone that he asked the Government to do something which he thought was in entire conformity with the larger design of the Bill, namely, to set on the face of this measure the desire that they would be glad to see that selfish and rich schools had a little pressure brought to bear upon them in order to induce them to contribute out of their abundance to the necessities of their poorer brethren.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 14, after 'education' insert 'and the body of managers of any grouped schools may receive and dispose of the pecuniary resources of any schools within the group.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

EARL NELSON said he did not exactly understand what was meant by "pecuniary resources." He imagined that "pecuniary resources" meant endowments. He knew a school which was endowed for the benefit of the parish in which it was situated, and he should be sorry if, under this Clause, any part of the endowment was taken from the parish and given to a group of schools. He thought that one of the most valuable things contained in this Bill was the provision which provided for the grouping of schools.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said he wished to answer at once the question which had been put to him. By "pecuniary resources" he did not contemplate the receipt of money coming from endowments, although it was possible, in some cases, that part of an endowment might come to the schools What he contemplated was, certain schools receiving a certain portion of the fees and subscriptions which would be made possible by this Bill. He contemplated that they would have to raise subscriptions, and he thought the Bill would require them to raise larger subscriptions than they had ever raised before. Those were the pecuniary resources to which he referred. He ventured to suggest to the noble Lord that all he asked was not any declaration that it should be the duty of a special set of managers to pay over any of their ordinary resources, but that it should be possible for the managers of a school to do so if it was lawful, for them to do it, and if they were disposed to do it. He would go no further than that. If it was lawful and they were so disposed, he only asked that it might be declared that the managers of a group of schools might receive and dispose of their pecuniary resources. Of course, if a particular school refused to pay its resources into the hands of the managers of the grouped schools, there would be nothing to dispose of; but if they did choose to pay over what belonged to them into the hands of the managers of the grouped schools, they would have that sum to dispose of. It was a purely voluntary arrangement.

*EARL STANHOPE said that he knew a district where this system had been pursued with very great success. He was strongly in favour of the proposal of the Government for the grouping of schools in country districts, because he thought that without this principle in many instances the small schools could not be kept up. He was a member of a County Council, and he hoped and trusted that in many rural districts there would be a grouping of the schools. He very much hoped that the Amendment proposed by his right rev. friend would be accepted, because he believed that certainly this Act could not be carried out by a large committee of a County Council. It would have to be largely administered by a delegation of powers as provided for in the Bill. He hoped that any money which might come to grouped schools would be administered by the managers of those schools for the benefit of the group which they had to administer. He trusted that His Majesty's Government would accept this Amendment.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said it appeared to him that the Amendment either carried them a great deal too far, or was entirely unnecessary. If it meant that they were to be at liberty to spend money subscribed distinctly for a particular school for the benefit of a group of schools it would require new legislation. He could not understand why they needed legislation of this kind to enable them to spend money which had been voluntarily subscribed to meet the needs of schools in a particular area according to the wishes of the donors. Did this proposal mean to take money belonging to a particular school in order to use it for the benefit of the whole group?

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER: Only, of course, by the free consent of that particular school.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said that if it was intended to apply the money belonging to a particular school he should be inclined to think that such money would have to be devoted to the purposes which the donor intended. Either this Clause went too far, or it was entirely unnecessary.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND said that if he followed the explanation which had been given correctly, it meant that where money was left for the benefit of a particular school in a particular parish, and the managers of that school felt so disposed, they might make a contribution out of that fund to the new group of schools.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said he did not intend that. The noble Duke had evidently pointed to a defect in his Amendment, because he had not included that possibility. He was only talking about such resources as it was lawful for the managers of a particular school to dispose of. If any of the resources had been designated in any deed for a particular body, it would not be in the power of the managers of a group of schools to dispose of them, and they must spend those resources as the trust deed directed; but if there be any part of the school funds available, as contemplated in one of the Clauses of this Bill, which might be diverted legally to any other purpose, then he desired that that part, and that part alone, might be disposed of by the managers. If the Government would accept his proposal in that way he should be glad to add words to achieve this object. He suggested that his Amendment should be amended as follows:—

> "And the body of managers of any grouped schools may receive and dispose of the pecuniary resources of any school within the group which it may be lawful for such schools to devote to a general purpose."

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: As far as I can gather, the Amendment, as amended, is quite unnecessary, and I think the Amendment in its original shape is certainly open to the objections raised by my right rev. friend, the Bishop of Winchester.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said he would withdraw the Amendment if the Government could not see their way to accept it. He wished to ask whether he might take it that if there were any funds of the kind he had described which it was lawful for the managers of particular schools to pay into the hands of the general managers of a set of grouped schools, that those managers of the grouped schools might receive such funds and dispose of them? He was asking the Lord Chancellor this question. He was told that it was not necessary to insert the words he had moved in order to achieve the object he had last stated. If that were true he would very much like the Lord Chancellor to tell them so, if he could. If there was the slightest difficulty about the answer he would not press his question, because he knew what a terrible thing it was to ask for a legal opinion at a moment's notice. He only asked for a reply in case the learned and noble Earl had happened to think about it before.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): I have not the smallest difficulty in answering the question, although I have not had the opportunity of considering the right rev. Prelate's observations before he was good enough to make them. It must be one of two things. Either the funds described as pecuniary resources belong to the grouped schools, or they do not. If they belong to them, they may spend them; if they do not, they cannot.

Amendment withdrawn.

Clause 13 agreed to.

Clause 14:—

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK said he had put down this Amendment at the desire of the County Councils Association. Under sub-Section 2 of Clause 14 the County Council was bound to pay the money to the parishes concerned in aid of the rate which was to be levied on that parish. He did not want to interfere in any way with that provision, but he wished to add at the end of the Clause the following words:—

> "Provided that the local education authority may apply to the Board of Education for a scheme for the appropriation of any such money to educational purposes, and if a scheme shall be made such money shall be appropriated in accordance therewith.

He thought it was exceedingly probable that in many parishes, instead of desiring to have a certain sum, that they would prefer the money being appropriated to the establishment of scholarships in their schools or for some other useful educational purpose. He did not wish to make that a necessity; he only wished to give the County Council the power of applying to the Board of Education for a scheme for the appropriation of any such money for educational purposes, and if such scheme was approved of he desired that such money should be appropriated in the manner laid down in this Clause. He felt certain that His Majesty's Government would not object to the principle of this Clause for a very good reason—namely, that in 1896 they introduced in the Education Bill a Clause which gave the County Councils power to go to the Charity Commissioners for schemes in respect of educational endowments within their county. That Clause the County Councils Association would like introduced into this Bill. The Government did not introduce such a Clause, for reasons which he was not aware of, and he could not expect, in the present condition of the Bill, any large Clause of that kind to be introduced. At the same time a much smaller power in respect of these particular endowments might properly be introduced into the Bill at the end of Clause 14, and the effect of such an Amendment as he had moved, he thought, would be greatly to the advantage of education.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 9, line 7, after 'parish,' insert 'Provided that the local education authority may apply to the Board of Education for a cheme for the appropriation of any such money to educational purposes, and if a scheme shall be made such money shall be appropriated in accordance therewith."—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE said he was afraid that under the Bill some injustice might be done to a certain class of endowment relating to apprenticeship.

The Earl of Northbrook.

Those endowments, he fancied, in certain schools, had been transferred under Clause 23 of the Act of 1870, and were now in the possession of certain schools. If those endowments originally meant for apprenticeships were turned over to be utilised for structural repairs, they would be perverting the original intentions of the pious founders. Therefore, he ventured to make an appeal in favour of the noble Earl's Amendment.

EARL NELSON said that endowments were certainly given, among other things, to pay for a master and mistress in bad times, and there was no doubt that it was part of the original intention to keep the buildings in repair. Now that the parish had got a much better building, surely a part of such an endowment could be taken to keep the building in repair, for even then it was benefiting education. In the case of those endowments he had referred to, he thought the most proper way of employing them would be to form them into scholarships for distinguished boys in the parish.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK said the Clause did not touch voluntary schools, but only schools for which provision was made by the Council.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not think the Clause can apply to endowments of the kind referred to by the noble Lord opposite. Sub-Section (2) applies to—

> "Any money arising from an endowment and paid to a County Council for those purposes of a public elementary school for which provision is to be made by the Council, shall be credited by the Council in aid of the rate levied for the purposes of Part III. of the Act."

That is to say, for the maintenance of the school. I do not see how endowments of the kind referred to by the noble Lord would come under that description. The intention of this sub-Section, as it stands, is to secure that any endowments which go to the local authority, and not to the managers, shall be used to reduce the rates for elementary education in the parish in which the endowments have hitherto been enjoyed. That has been their effect up to now—that is, to relieve the educational expenses of the parish as far as they went; and there does not appear to me to be any sufficient reason for diverting them from the object to which they have hitherto been applied.

EARL SPENCER: I should like to know if the noble Duke means that this Clause only applies to endowments specially devoted to diminishing the rates of certain parishes. I do not read it in that way. I should like to divide what I am going to say into two parts. With regard to the proposal of my noble friend, Lord Northbrook, I think it is a pity that endowments of this kind, not intended to relieve the rates, but to give help to those who wish to rise on the ladder of education, should be now devoted really to the relief of the rates or of the expenditure of the local education authority. I therefore should heartily sympathise with my noble friend in what he has proposed, but I have a doubt—and I put in a *caveat* here—as to whether this does not come within privilege. There is a question whether the rates stand in a different position to money paid out of the Exchequer, but this money from endowments would relieve the general funds of the local authority, and the general funds are made up of both local and Imperial grants. So I rather doubt myself, and I put in a *caveat* as to whether this Amendment does not involve a question of privilege. Therefore, I hesitate rather to support this proposal, although upon its merits I approve of it.

Amendment negatived.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said he felt that he had trespassed a good deal upon their Lordships' attention during the Committee stage of this Bill, and he was afraid that unless he was able to persuade His Majesty's Government to accept this Amendment, it might still be his duty to divide the House. If so, he hoped it would be the last time upon this stage that he should have thus to take up their time. This Amendment, to his mind, was a very important one. It was that they should strike out Clause 14 altogether, and that they should insert the following new Clause:—

"All educational endowments, which before the passing of this Act were being used for the purposes of elementary education, shall be reserved for the benefit of meritorious children in the parish or district, and shall be dealt with by scheme to be drawn up by the Board of Education, in consultation with the local education authority, and laid before Parliament in the usual way."

In his own poor diocese there was no less a sum than something between £2,000 and £3,000 a year, which was being used for these purposes, and those endowments he desired to see reserved for the purposes he had indicated. He felt very strongly indeed upon this point. He felt that it was a matter of great importance that they should endeavour in this respect to hold on to the intentions of those generous donors and patrons who had given these benefactions. He did not dispute the power of the House to deal with benefactions of this kind, but what he did say was that, under the circumstances, to do this would be both ungenerous and unwise. That was his point. He ventured the other day to say that if a Radical Government had introduced into Parliament any such proposal as this, both Houses of Parliament would have rung with denunciations of it. It would have been said on almost all these Benches again and again, that they were laying sacrilegious hands on the gifts of those pious founders, and that they ought to reserve those gifts for the classes of persons for whose benefit they were intended, and not appropriate them for the benefit of an entirely different class of persons. Feeling deeply as he did about this question, he was conscious that he might have spoken strongly the other day, and last night, in the very striking speech of the noble Lord Chancellor, he seemed to hear a strong and perfervid rebuke for having used the strong language which he made use of upon that occasion. That being so, he desired to recall to the House the actual words he used. He said on that occasion that if they appropriated endowments as under this Clause, they would be doing a damage to the reputation of the Church of England. They would be doing it in this way, that they would be exposing themselves to the remark that would certainly be made outside, that they were adopting a policy which might be described as—

> "The good old rule,
> . . . . . , the simple plan,
> That they should take who have the power,
> And they should keep who can."

He went on, perhaps in the heat of the argument, to say that this was a plan which, in the vernacular, in the language of the man in the street in Bethnal Green or anywhere else, was not uncommonly described as a "policy of grab." To that description he understood that the noble and learned Earl took objection. Well, perhaps he ought not to have introduced any of those vernacular phrases, and he apologised, but he could not withdraw the substance of his remarks. He desired, however, to say that he had no intention of attributing, either to the Government or to any portion of the Church which he served, anything like a deliberate and conscious pursuit of this policy which was so described, but he thought that they exposed themselves to such a description of it from the enemy outside, and he thought it was well to think of that. *Fas est et ab hoste doceri*, and their action was certain to be so described by the ordinary person in ordinary society. If he did not attribute any blame, or wish to indicate that either the Government or the Church had consciously and deliberately pursued this policy of appropriating what, to his mind, should have been reserved for other purposes, he did say that they had drifted into it just as they drifted in public life into a great many things which they did not beforehand, and of set purpose, deliberately intend to do. He might illustrate this point by a very simple and familiar case. Some three or four years ago they all heard the noble Marquess of Salisbury—and it would have been a great pleasure to them if he had been present to join in this discussion—say that with regard to South Africa they desired neither land, nor gold, nor diamonds; but now they had drifted till they had taken the land, and they would be very glad to get more of the gold and diamonds if they could. That was just a case of political drifting, and that was just what had happened, as he understood it, with regard to this appropriation of endowments and some other things in this Bill. That was his point—that they had drifted into this position, and he hoped that by adopting his Amendment in respect of the Clause as it stood, they might drift out of the position in which they found themselves. He most sincerely hoped that this would be the case, because he had a very strong desire in regard to this matter. As he had ventured to refer to the speech of the noble and learned Earl, he should like to be permitted to add one other word, and thank him for another portion of his speech, and that was for that portion which dealt with the zeal and the poverty of our clergy. He thanked the noble and learned Earl very sincerely for that, and he would go back to his own diocese with the feeling that, after listening to that part of his speech, and to some other speeches such as that delivered by the noble Viscount behind him, there was dawning a better day with regard to clerical incomes. He could not help feeling that certain noble Earls in this House, like Earl Egerton, Viscount Cross, and Lord Ashcombe and others, to whom they owed a debt of gratitude in connection with the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund, must have rejoiced to hear those eloquent speeches, and he desired to thank them for helping so far. But with regard to this Amendment, if the Church acquiesced in the Clause as it stood—and he thought it would not, because he had good hopes that a great many of his friends on the Episcopal Bench would vote with him on this point—but if it acquiesced it would do itself harm, because acquiescence in an appropriation of this kind was a direct contradiction of the whole policy of the Church in the past with regard to the poor, because the Church had always been the great friend and benefactor of the poor, and therefore he contended that they would be going against their natural policy if they accepted endowments of this kind which, to such a large extent, were intended for the benefit of the poor. Therefore he trusted and believed that his brethren would stand by him in this matter. Let them look at the Amendment for a moment. The Clause, as it stood in the Bill, took the benefactions of generous and pious founders and used them for an entirely different purpose. He did not dispute the legality of that proceeding, but he ventured to think that the generous and wise method to pursue in this matter was to look upon these benefactions as belonging to those districts from which respectable tradesmen and others had gone out and made their fortunes, and who had been moved to make these benefactions in order to give opportunities to village children which they did not enjoy themselves. A great many of their benefactions had sprung up in that way, and he held that the generous and the wisest thing to do would be to reserve these benefactions, so that the class of children for whom they were intended would still continue to enjoy, by virtue of them, benefits which they could not otherwise enjoy. That, he contended, contained the kernel of the whole matter, and so he would like to treat this as a part of the inalienable estate of the poorer classes, which he thought would be for the best interest of the nation at large. Let their Lordships observe the sort of inequality they would be guilty of if they allowed this Clause to stand as it now stood. In two parishes in his own diocese, which were equally poor, they had existing side by side this state of things, namely, that one had got probably endowments amounting to £20, £30, or £50 a year, while the other parish had not got one penny. Under the present circumstances they were bound to do exactly the same thing with regard to public education for both those parishes. Why should they not leave those benefactions for the benefit of those children for whom they were intended in order that those children might have opportunities that they could not otherwise have got? But there was another point. Those poor children would not be the beneficiaires under this Bill if the Clause were left standing as it now stood. They would not enjoy the benefits of all those pious gifts which had been handed down to them. Who would enjoy, under this Bill, the £2,000 or £3,000 a year in his own diocese which had been left in this way? Why, to a great extent, the richer classes. He ventured to say that there was no body of men in England who would be to such a large extent the beneficiaires under these endowments as the Members of their Lordships' House. He knew that there was not a single Member of this House who would like to feel that he was putting into his own private pocket these benefactions of £5, £10, £20, or £70 a year by way of relief from his rates which were intended for the meritorious and poor children of his parish and neighbourhood. Therefore he had good hope that a great many of their Lordships would prefer his Amendment to the Clause as it stood. In conclusion, he would venture to add a word of thanks for their Lordships' kind indulgence, but, as he had said already more than once, he felt very deeply and strongly on this subject. He did so because from the circumstances of his life, which had been very different from the circumstances of most of their Lordships' lives, he had been led to think a good deal about this subject for many reasons. Amongst others, he would not have had the privilege of standing in that House at all but for the benefits of endowments like these. Perhaps some of their Lordships would say that that would have been no great loss, but he would go one step further and say that they would never have had the venerable Primate in that House—and how delighted they would have been to have him there that night—but for the benefit of such endowments. He hoped, therefore, that the Amendment would meet with sympathetic and favourable consideration at their Lordships' hands, as he felt sure that it would do so if they realised to the full what a generous and wise act they would be doing.

Amendment moved—

To leave out Clause 14, and to insert the following new Clause instead thereof:—

"All educational endowments, which before the passing of this Act were being used for the purposes of elementary education, shall be reserved for the benefit of meritorious children in the parish or district, and shall be dealt with by scheme to be drawn up by the Board of Education in consultation with the local education authority and laid before Parliament in the usual way."—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL said he did not desire to speak of this as an appropriation at all. A number of these endowments were by the trust deeds confined to elementary schools, so that in that respect he could not regard them as being appropriated within the meaning of that Clause, the endowments having been applied, and properly applied, to relieve the charges in the form of subscriptions or otherwise by which the schools were maintained. They would not be in any way transferred to the particular funds spoken about. But he quite agreed with the Bishop of Hereford that the course proposed would be a very wise, and not merely a generous, course in the present state of education. The one principle of this Bill which had overruled everything was that education should be co-ordinated with a view of making the elementary schools a ladder from the bottom to the top which would enable all scholars to go from the elementary schools to the universities. Fifty years ago he was one of those who took part in the University Commission. That Commission thought it right to give up every kind of local scholarship for the purpose of promoting some more liberal kind of education. Some of them now thought that some of the local interest then sacrificed ought to be restored, and that local subscriptions ought to be re-established for the purposes for which they used to be employed, but which at that time were not thought of so much importance as larger measures of higher education It might be thought that that was too big a change, but seeing that there was this fund standing as endowments, and regarded, therefore, in everybody's view as a separate fund, with such contributions as came from the taxes and the rates, he thought the endowment fund should have some special use given to it, and not be swamped in the general funds.

Lord **BURGHCLERE** said the Clause of the Government touched the same peculiar class of endowments of which he had already spoken, and it appeared that he was perfectly correct in what he had stated with regard to those endowments. The noble Duke had said that voluntary schools were not affected by this provision—that this only concerned public elementary schools for which no provision has been made—namely, non-voluntary schools. He (Lord Burghclere) was referring to a peculiar class of endowments which were transferred under Clause 23 of the Act of 1870, and which therefore did not come under this provision.

Lord **RIBBLESDALE** said it would clear the atmosphere a little if the noble Duke would answer a concrete case which he would put. An ancestress of his, Mary Lister and her husband, had endowed a certain village school with property which now produced £43 a year. The school was a very small one, costing only £50 a year; therefore only £7 was left for private subscriptions in order to get the grant. It was a good school, and had always got the grant. He asked what became of the money of Mary Lister and her husband under this Bill? The money was devoted to the education of children. Would that £43 a year have to be pooled? The village would be rated to the county like other folk, and he supposed the £43 would be thrown into the general melting-pot. He did not object, but as a matter of fact it would be pooled for the good of of the whole district. That, it seemed to him, was to a great extent defeating the objects of the "pious founder."

*The Earl of **HALSBURY** said one mode of discussing this question with clearness was to see what the Clause was in respect of which the Amendment was moved. The noble Lord Lord Burghclere had apparently not read the Clause with sufficient clearness, probably because he had been diverted by the somewhat discursive observations of the right rev. Prelate. The Clause began—

> "Nothing in this Act shall affect any endowment, or the discretion of any trustees in respect thereof: provided that, where under the trusts or other provisions affecting any endowment the income thereof must be applied in whole or in part for those purposes of a public elementary school for which provision is to be made by the local education authority, the whole of the income or the part thereof, as the case may be, shall be paid to that authority, and in case part only of such income must be so applied, and there is no provision under the said trusts or provisions for determining the amount which represents that part, the amount shall be determined in case of difference between the parties concerned by the Board of Education."

That was perfectly plain—that for which the money was given being now supplied by the local education authority, the endowment would be transferred to that authority; and so far from there being an abandonment of anything provided by this pious ancestress, the local authority now came in and supplied it. It was really another mode of doing the same thing. With reference to the speech of the right rev. Prelate, it was not worth while to recur to their former debates, but he was very glad indeed to recognise that the right rev. Prelate did not mean what his words on a former occasion seemed to imply. Nothing could be more agreeable than to hear that when the right rev. Prelate said that the policy of grab was bad enough in China and Africa, but that when he found it in the Church of Christ it was intolerable, what he meant to say was that the attitude of the Church might expose the Church to the unjust suspicion of adopting the policy of grab; he was very glad indeed to have that explanation.

EARL CARRINGTON, referring to Humberton's Charity in Lincolnshire, understood that that charity would go entirely to the purposes to which it was now devoted, and no part of it would be pooled.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: It is given to the credit of that parish.

EARL CARRINGTON: Entirely for the purposes of the parish?

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: Entirely.

*LORD COLCHESTER said if there had been a provision that where a school had an endowment the local authority should not undertake the whole maintenance, but only so far as the endowment was insufficient, it might be said that the endowment was still carrying on the work of education, although practically the result would be the same; but in cases where the endowment was left for education nothing would be done for education that would not be done if it did not exist. It would only relieve the burden on the ratepayers, which was not the object contemplated by the founder. He did not understand the meaning of the words in the Amendment "shall be reserved for the benefit." Presumably that referred to educational benefits. In many cases the intention of the founder was not so much to benefit elementary higher education generally as to give an opportunity for more education for children of special talent among the poor. That was an idea that took root much earlier than ideas of general education, and he imagined that a very large number of endowments which had been applied to elementary education had really been so applied by an abuse of the original intention of the founder. On these grounds, though he had been unable to agree with him on other parts of the Bill, he would be bound to support the right rev. Prelate if he pressed the Amendment to a division.

*EARL SPENCER: The noble and learned Lord, referring to the case put by Lord Ribblesdale, said that the position of the parish with regard to Mary Lister's fund would be practically the same, because, although the £43 a year was spent on education, it would go in aid of the rates of the parish. But surely that is not the case. The £43 will go to relieve the ratepayers all over the county.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: By sub-Section 2 it is given to the overseers of the parish.

*EARL SPENCER: It certainly appears to me that it would relieve the whole of the rates of the county, and not the particular parish; I merely rose to make the position clear. I entirely agree with the right rev. Prelate on this matter, but I am afraid that I cannot vote with him, because, though the noble Duke quoted what I said the other day about the House of Commons being capable of taking care of itself, I do not like to put the House of Lords in the position of infringing the privileges of the other House; I think such a position is undignified, and I am clearly of opinion that this comes within the privileges of the other House. Therefore, although I entirely agree with this proposal, I shall not feel myself able to vote for it.

*The EARL OF HALSBURY: Perhaps I may read the Sub-Section, because I think there is a misapprehension about it—

> "Any money arising from an endowment and paid to a County Council for those purposes of a public elementary school for which provision is to be made by the Council, shall be credited by the Council in aid of the rate levied for the purposes of Part 3 of this Act, in the parish or parishes which in the opinion of the Council are served by the school for the purposes of which the sum is paid, or if the Council so direct shall be paid to the overseers of the parish or parishes in the proportions directed by the Council, and applied by the overseers in aid of the poor rate levied in the parish."

On Question, "That Clause 14 stand part of the Bill," resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 15:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD, in moving the next Amendment, said he need not trouble the House with any arguments beyond this, that while he had considerable sympathy with the Clause which reserved to the owners of school buildings the rent of the schoolhouse—for there was a good deal to be said for reserving that rent, because it was part of the salary of the masters, and the salary of the masters was given over to the authorities responsible for the maintenance—he also had sympathy with the contention that only structural repairs should remain a burden on the owners of the buildings, because the other repairs had hitherto been included in what was known as Form 9 of the Returns of the Education Department, and therefore had been included in the maintenance expenses of the school. Inasmuch as the public had taken over the expense of maintenance, it was reasonable that they should take over the expense under Form 9. He, however, saw no similar grounds for this reservation, and therefore he would be glad if it could be dropped, because he held that the Church ought not to claim anything beyond what she had a definite title to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 9, line 11, to leave out from 'pay' to the end of the Clause, and insert 'all such fees to the local education authority in aid of the rate levied for the purposes of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said there were certain facts with reference to school fees which ought to be brought before the House. If this Amendment were carried the schools which would most suffer would be the Wesleyan schools, and those, he was afraid, had but few representatives in this House. From a letter from one of His Majesty's counsel which appeared in Mondays' *Times*, it appeared that out of 458 Wesleyan schools fees were taken in 307, or over 60 per cent. of such schools, and the total sum produced was £29,981, or a payment of 4s. 8½d. per child per annum. The next class of schools to suffer would be the British schools. The British schools, and other schools which are called miscellaneous when grouped together, had again but few representatives in this House. Out of 1,052 British and miscellaneous schools school fees are taken in 330, or 31 per cent., the total sum received being £31 161, or 2s. 10¼d. per child per annum. Compared with these bodies the Church of England has received a very small sum in proportion. Out of the total of 11,731 Church of England schools fees are only taken in 1,750; that is, about 15 per cent., and the total amount received by the Church of England from such fees is £121,315, giving an annual payment of only 1s. 3½d. per child in every school-pence paying school. The Roman Catholic schools had a smaller proportion still. Out of 1,053 Roman Catholic schools pence are taken in 113, that is only 9 per cent. of the whole number, the total sum produced being £7,163, or only 6¾d. per child per annum. The Church of England would lose a small sum. Suppose that the fees were divided, and went half to the managers and half to the local authorities, the Church of England would receive under the Bill £60,500 supposing the rate of fees in the future to be what it had been in the past. Therefore the loss to the Church of England, if that sum were divided amongst all the counties of England would be a very small loss compared with that of Wesleyan and British schools. He thought a word ought to be said on behalf of these Wesleyan and British schools, and that it should be pointed out that if this Amendment were carried it would hit these schools very hard indeed. Another point was this. The payment for fees had been gradually reduced. In the year 1897 there were 735,142 fee-paying scholars; there had been a gradual reduction every year; next year it was 706,000, the next 670,000, the next 649,000, the next 644,000. There was a Clause in this Bill by which the local authorities would be able to cease these fees altogether if they chose. Undoubtedly, therefore, there would be a very considerable reduction, and the sums hitherto received under the head of fees would, in years to come, be very much smaller than they had been in the past. It had been stated twice by the noble Earl, the Leader of the Opposition, that these fees were considered a considerable asset—as though the Church of England were a Corporation which was able to pool all the receipts for fees and endowments, and as though it were not necessary, therefore, to raise any large sum by subscriptions for the purposes for which the managers would have to raise funds. He would remind the House that the fees which would be returned under this Bill to the managers were strictly ear-marked for the schools from which those fees were taken. They could not be pooled for general purposes; they were simply for the schools and parishes concerned. Therefore the asset, whatever it might be, would be a very small asset. He would be unable to agree with the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16:—

Amendment made—

"In page 9, line 21 after 'managers,' to insert 'or as to control by the local education authority.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

EARL CARRINGTON: In moving the rejection of this Clause I need not retain the House while I state my reasons. The Clause relates to schools attached to institutions, and runs as follows:—

"The local education authority may maintain, as a public elementary school under the provisions of this Act, but shall not be required so to maintain any Marine school, or any school which is part of, or is held in the premises of, any institution in which children are boarded, but their refusal to maintain such a school shall not render the school incapable of receiving a Parliamentary grant, nor shall the school, if not so maintained, be subject to the provisions of this Act as to the appointment of managers."

Then will follow the words just added on the motion of the noble Duke. As regards Marine schools, there are only five of them in existence; they are looked after by special legislation, and they are quite able to take care of themselves, and there is no earthly reason, as far as I am informed, why these marine schools should have been brought within the provisions of the Act. Then there is Greenwich Hospital, with its great endowment of £7,000 a year, and there are one or two others in the same category. The House knows well that this Clause was rushed in in another place at the very last moment and the House was informed that this Clause was to protect local authorities against the schools composed of children collected from all parts of the kingdom. To save time, I would like to ask the noble Duke a question, to which he can answer yes or no—whether these schools will be subject to all the conditions imposed on non-provided schools.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I believe so.

EARL CARRINGTON: This Clause refers to orphanages and institutions, and they include those semi-industrial schools to which laundries are attached, and which were intended to make very considerable profit. I do not think that that is the kind of school that ought to come under the provisions of the Act. The Marine schools are well provided for already. I have been told that those who manage these industrial schools say they do not intend that they shall be brought under the Act in any way. How that may be I have no means of knowing, but I may quote the words of the Lord Bishop of Manchester the other night when he stated that what people could do they would probably do, and therefore under these circumstances I beg to move the omission of Clause 16.

Amendment moved,—

"To leave out Clause 16."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

***EARL SPENCER:** I sympathise to a great extent with what Lord Carrington has said, but I am not quite sure as to what the meaning of the Clause is. I would like to ask what is meant by "Marine schools." I rather think that that applies to some schools which were put under the Education Board when I had the honour to be in the place of the noble Earl opposite (Lord Selborne). We had a class of schools at Gosport and other places which were paid for out of the Admiralty Vote, and were directly under the management of the Admiralty. The scholars were the children of Marines. I do not know whether this word "marine" applies to them. These schools were good schools, and I thought, and the Board that I had the honour to preside over thought, that they would be very much better managed if put under the education inspectors and received the Government grant in the ordinary way, and that was done. I should be rather sorry if anything could interfere with the present management of these schools. I have a sort of feeling that already a great many of the higher schools in large towns have received grants for voluntary purposes and become primary schools, and that they are included also. I confess that I have some lurking feeling in favour of those schools, and I am certainly not at all strongly impressed with the desirability of omitting this Clause.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (the Earl of SELBORNE): The schools referred to here as "Marine schools" are Royal Marine schools, and they have no connection with the Greenwich Hospital or the Greenwich Hospital funds. The Board of which the noble Earl was First Lord introduced the change in our administration which he has described to the House. The change has worked most admirably, and the present Board only desire to preserve that system.

LORD NELSON: I should be very sorry if these schools were removed from the Bill, because we have a similar school, the Royal Patriotic Asylum, which has all the grants that an elementary school would get. I do not know what would happen to that school if any alteration were made. For many years we have been receiving the grant, and have received from His Majesty's Inspectors great credit for the high level at which we are teaching the children.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My noble friend, Lord Selborne, has stated, in reply to the noble Earl, what these Marine schools are. I am not sure whether he stated that while the Admiralty contributes the amount required to defray their expenditure, in addition to the annual and fee grants, a proportion of their expenditure is defrayed by the Education Department, and that is an arrangement which it is proposed to continue. As the schools, however, do not serve any local needs it would be inequitable to compel the locality to maintain them. If this Clause had not been inserted in the Bill the Education Department would no longer have contributed to the support of these schools. There is very much the same reason for treating in the same way the class of schools referred to in the Bill. These are boarding institutions, and the children in them are of the same class as those that attend other elementary schools; therefore there is no reason why they should not receive the annual grant of the Education Department like other elementary schools; but, as they do not necessarily benefit the children of any particular locality, it would be unfair to compel the locality to maintain them as if they were ordinary elementary schools.

EARL CARRINGTON: I would like to repeat my question. Are these schools going to be subject to all the conditions imposed on non-provided schools? That is rather an interesting question, and I should like to get an answer.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: If they receive rate aid.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Their Lordships adjourned at Eight of the clock and resumed at Nine.

Clause 18:—

* LORD COLERIDGE, in moving to omit the words in sub-Section (2), "unless in the case of a county, the Council shall otherwise determine," said: I have some hope that the Government will look with favour upon this Amendment. I propose to insure that the education committee appointed by the County Council shall have a majority of its members upon that committee. I do not quite understand why there is an important difference made in the case of the County Council and that of the Council of a County Borough, or the Council of a Borough of 10,000, or the Council of an Urban District; because in those cases, as I understand the Bill, the majority of the education committee will have to be composed of the majority of the Council appointed, while in the sole instance of the County Council it is

provided that that is not necessary unless the County Council so determine. I understand that originally the Bill did not contain those words, and that they were put in on Report by Sir William Anson. It is rather important to draw attention to the position of these education committees. It was at first thought that the education committee would be paramount, because the Bill, as it was originally drawn, said that the County Council should "act through" the education committee. It was then thought advisable to change those words into the word "establish"; the County Council is now to "establish an education committee." "Establish" is a different word from "appoint," which is the usual word. I should like to know from the Government whether they agree with the view I hold, that in consequence of the word "establish," the education committee will have very large powers in the matter. It is quite true that they will not have powers of rating, but with the exception of that they will practically dominate the education of the committees. Under those circumstances it does seem an extraordinary thing that the rule should provide that in all cases the majority shall be members of the Council, except in the case of the County Council. These education committees have got to start the thing, and the County Council is the only body with any representative authority. I can quite understand that, this work being novel and somewhat burdensome, it may be that members of the County Council may be desirous of avoiding, reasonably, the burden placed upon them by Parliament, and they may seek to avoid being placed on the education committees; and we may very well have the education committee with a very small minority, and, so far as the Bill is concerned, it may be possible that there may be no members of the County Council on the committee. That was admitted by the Attorney General in the House of Commons. I do not say it will happen—possibly it will not; but at any rate, there is no assurance in the Bill that there will be any members of the County Council on the committee. It seems to me that the Government ought to meet that in the same way. I understand that the Amendment I now move is supported by my noble friend, Lord Northbrook, on behalf of the County Councils' Association. I cannot see that it will do the slightest harm, and I hope it will be accepted by the noble Duke.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 13, to leave out from 'Council' to the end of the paragraph."—(*The Lord Coleridge.*)

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: The noble and learned Lord said that he thought it might be possible that the County Councils would desire to support the proviso that, with their consent, the Education Committee need not contain a majority of the Council. The history of what has taken place in this matter will satisfy your Lordships that there is no foundation for that idea. In the original Bill, as introduced by His Majesty's Government, there was absolutely no representation at all in respect of the administration of education. There was representation to the extent that the County Councils (who are representative bodies) possessed the rating power—they had to supply the money; but in respect of the whole administration of education from the top to the bottom of the Bill as introduced, there was no representation of the people at all. That matter was considered by the County Councils' Association at the general meeting in May last, and we came to the unanimous conclusion that our support of the Bill was to be on the condition that the education committee should have a majority of members of the Council who appointed it. Now, we have supported the Government Bill loyally, and I certainly am surprised that at the last moment, on Report in the other House, the County Council are put in the position of having the power of appointing an education committee which shall not contain a majority of their number. For some reason of which I am quite unaware, on the Report stage the boroughs—I suppose they had more influence in the other House than the counties—had this power taken away from them. The boroughs did not want the power of being able to appoint education committees not containing a majority of their number. But, so far from there being any desire on the part of the County Councils of England that this proviso should remain in the Bill, it is our great desire that it shall be omitted. I consider that the proviso itself is objectionable on principle, for this reason: there should be a representative element in the administration of education, and the proviso as it now stands enables any County Council to administer education without any representative element. I know very well, as does everyone who has had anything to do with County Councils, that the whole business of education must be carried on by the education committees. The Councils have power to delegate to those committees the whole of the business of education, with the exception of supplying the money. Therefore, if this proviso remains in the Bill, the whole of the administration of education throughout the country may be carried on—in counties—without any representative element. I would like to put to the Government what they have done by inserting this proviso. They have enabled anyone who objects to the Bill to say, and truly say, that, with this proviso in the Bill, there is power to carry on the administration of education without any representative element. In the first place, the County Councils do not want this proviso; secondly, it is wrong in principle; and thirdly, it would be immensely to the advantage of the Government, as a matter of argument, to omit the proviso.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: It is rather unfortunate that, for the second time in these debates, I find myself in disagreement with the noble Earl who has just sat down. Speaking only my own private opinion, I should like to advance one argument against what he has said. I suppose it would be an extreme case—one which would practically never occur—where a County Council would appoint a committee without a single county councillor upon it. What this proviso allows is that the personal interest which county councillors have in the education committees should be comparatively slight. One of the great dangers, as it seems to me, of the provisions of this Bill, is that County Council elections will or may be conducted upon educational and denominational questions, which I think will introduce an element of controversy into County Council elections that may be very mischievous. Further, we shall probably not get on the Councils the right men; instead of men who are good upon the subject of roads, bridges, sanitation, and so forth, we may have men who are just educationists. Therefore, if this Bill is to work well, I should have thought it wise to give County Councils at any rate the power of so far diminishing the direct interest which individual candidates may have in getting on the Council by enabling the Councils to elect a committee with a small number, comparatively, of councillors upon them. The noble Earl has pointed out that if county councillors are not properly represented on these committees, practically the committees will not be representative of the ratepayers. I would suggest that although that is perhaps technically correct, it is really not so. Practically, the County Council are paramount over these education committees; they must act through them, but they are paramount over them. It is true they have the liberty to delegate their powers to the committees, but they are not compelled to do so, and if the education committee did not properly represent the views of the Council (that Council being representative of the ratepayers), I am certain that the Council would take good care that the committee adopted their views or were replaced by those who would do so. I think the other danger is very much greater—that you will have County Council elections too much influenced by educational questions, and that you will not get the right men on the Councils. I therefore trust that the Government will not give way on this subject. I do not know whether I am in order now, or whether it should come up on an Amendment of my own later on, but I would like to ask the noble and learned Lord who has moved this Amendment, What is the particular reason why this power is confined to the County Council, or, rather—I would put it in the opposite way—why should not the Borough Councils and Urban Councils be allowed the same liberty of choosing whether they will have a majority of their own members on these committees? Do the words in this paragraph—

"(a) Unless in the case of a county, the Council shall otherwise determine," govern the preceding words or paragraph, or not? In other words, is a County Council at liberty, if it chooses not, to appoint a majority of the committee, as well as not to make that majority members of the Council; or is it confined to appointing at least a majority? That is not clear as it stands, and I suggest that the matter should be dealt with, either now or on Report.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I feel very strongly on this matter, which is one in which I take the greatest interest. I have always maintained that one of the blots in the Bill was this. The Government have said that the ratepayers were represented by the County Council, who were an elective body, and therefore that answered what we consider a strong constitutional point—namely, the necessity that when the rating power existed in one body the governing body should be there also. But I say that that is not the case in practice; that the tendency of the Bill as drawn was to push away from the actual representative bodies, the County Councils, the duty of conducting and controlling education, by devolving that upon a committee of their own. That is why I have always said that, owing to the fact that the County Council will have a consultative body of their own members, this representation of the ratepayers on the County Councils is delusive and a sham. My belief is this: I am speaking particularly of a rural County Council, to which my noble friend's Amendment specially refers. I have said before that these County Councils govern districts of enormous area. The members of the committees of the County Council come from a very great distance. I know in my own county I am always surprised at the regularity with which county councillors attend the committees and the Council of my county from a great distance. But I assure your Lordships that they have very great difficulty, and the county councillors are put to very great exertion and strain and expenditure, by having continually to come up to the centre to deal with the various matters that now come before the County Council. That strain and difficulty will be enormously increased by this great work of education being put upon them. What will they do? They will adopt the power which these words give them, and will relieve this strain upon them by delegating their powers to a consultative committee. That, to my mind, is a very serious thing. I attach immense importance to the body that is to be the educational authority, and to have the practical working and administration of the education in a county, being representative of the ratepayers. If the County Council delegate these powers, practically the management and control of education will be in the hands, not of real representatives, but of delegates of the real representatives—namely, the County Council. I object to this entirely. I believe it will be doing great harm to education in the country, and I believe that in order to get thorough education in the country it is of the utmost importance that all the ratepayers and representatives in the county should take a deep interest in the matter, which interest cannot be stimulated more than by their being made the electors of a representative body. I believe the reason why this exception has been put in is on account of the difficulty which, no doubt, will be thrown on County Councils by this extra work. At the same time, I feel so strongly about it that I very much object to this plan, and I think it most important that the same limitation should be put on the rural County Councils as is now put on the boroughs—namely, that they must elect a majority of their own members on the education committee. The noble Duke who spoke last referred to County Council elections. I sincerely hope that County Council elections will not turn on educational grounds. I have always rejoiced very much at the absence of sharp Party lines in the election of County Councils, and I am very much afraid that the Bill as it now stands in many respects will overturn that happy state of things, and that there will be considerable acrimony and excitement in the elections, because the various parties, actuated, I am sorry to say, by religious feelings, will try to get possession of the County Council in order to promote their own views. I regret that very much indeed; but I feel very strongly that if my noble friend's Amendment is carried some of these difficulties may be overcome, and that if the County Councils are obliged to put a majority of their own representatives on these Committees, some of the difficulties referred to may be met. Though I object, as your Lordships know, to the general principles of the Bill, I should sincerely rejoice if His Majesty's Government would so far alter it in this respect, and regard the necessity of putting on rural County Councils the same obligation as they have put on the county boroughs, by insisting that on the education committees the majority shall be members of the County Council.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY At the present moment, except in the case of a County Council, the majority of the education committee must be members of the Council. Now, the Amendment of the noble and learned Lord opposite would involve that the majority of the Committee in the case of a County Council also should be members of the Council. The Bill as it originally stood only referred to the Council appointing the majority of the committee. The noble and learned Lord is quite correct when he says that my hon. friend Sir William Anson, in the House of Commons, proposed that the majority should also be members of the Council unless the Council otherwise determined. At the same time, however, I cannot but think that, while I am defending this Clause, we should consider the various circumstances of the local authorities of the country, and, therefore, it would be unwise to make any hard and fast declaration such as would be made if this Amendment were carried. As far as I can judge from the speeches of the two noble Lords who have spoken, the County Councils which they represent as chairmen do not seem to have arrived at the same conclusion.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I may be allowed to explain that I was not speaking for my County Council at all; I was only expressing my individual opinions.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: What I said was that at a meeting of the County Councils Association it was determined that the support given to the Bill should be on condition that the education committee should be composed in the majority of members of the Council.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The noble Earl speaks undoubtedly with authority; but at the present moment we are informed that there are County Councils who think that it would be impossible to carry on the work thrown upon them by this Bill if they are required to have a majority of their own members on the Committee.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: Has the noble Marquess any objection to telling us the names of those County Councils?

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I do not know that I can give the names, but that is the information given to the Government.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My impression is that the whole of the counties agreed to this Resolution.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I will not pit my authority against that of the noble Earl, but the Government are under the belief that the County Councils, as a whole, would not altogether approve of this Amendment of the noble and learned Lord opposite. There is one word I should like to say with regard to what the noble and learned Lord said. He seems to think that the education committee would dominate the situation. I question that. The Council can act absolutely as it pleases, and can override or can ignore the declarations of the committee if it chooses.

EARL SPENCER: It can, but it will not.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: It is not for the Government to say what they can or will do, but they can override or ignore the decisions of the committee if they choose. My noble friend Lord Northbrook, asked why the boroughs are dealt with separately from the counties. My noble friend knows that the areas dealt with by the boroughs are very much more compact and much easier to deal with than those over which the County Councils preside. Without saying any more, I think I am justified, in spite of what the noble Lords who represent County Councils say, in asking your Lordships to reject the Amendment.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I think the noble Earl (Northbrook) stated the case for his Amendment extremely clearly and with great force. My noble friend on behalf of the County Councils Association stated that the County Councils of England were in favour of this Amendment. The noble Marquess opposite was challenged to say what were the Councils that objected, and he found himself absolutely unable to reply. The noble Marquess argued that the reason the County Councils should be excepted from the Bill is that the counties are wider districts, and that there is a difficulty in the members getting about the county, and therefore it would be desirable to get outsiders to serve on these committees. I do not think that is a very sound argument. It seems to me it would be easy to find in any County Council a certain number of suitable persons who would be able to attend to this particular work. Moreover, I would point out that in another House the Government themselves are largely responsible for any difficulty which arises upon this head. In another place the Government refused to allow the necessary travelling expenses of members of these committees. I think that that was a most reasonable proposal. It seems to me that when members of the Council are travelling about the county doing the work of the committees and of the Council, it is a reasonable thing to expect that their expenses should be paid, at least, their out-of-pocket expenses. The noble Duke said he was afraid that if the last words of this paragraph were omitted it would cause the County Council selections to turn largely on the question of education. I do not see how that would be the case if these words were omitted more than it is under the present circumstances. After all, any given county Council would not have to appoint a very large number of members to serve on these committees. If my noble friend desires to see educational experts and others serving on the committees, the remaining sub-Sections of this Clause give plenty of opportunity for that. Many of us on this side of the House feel that it is in this particular direction that the Bill is greatly wanting, and that by the provisions of this Clause the representation of the education committees is made exceedingly and unnecessarily indirect. We believe it is desirable that for the important work of the County Councils the representation should be direct, and that the men who have to perform that work should be brought into direct touch with the electors of the county. For these reasons, I very strongly support the Amendment of my noble and learned friend.

*LORD HARRIS: The noble Earl opposite said that all the members of the County Councils' Association had agreed in May that a majority of the education committee should be members of the Council.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I said that that was the condition on which the Association supported the Government Bill.

*LORD HARRIS: I suppose if that was a unanimous vote, the representative of my own county must have voted for it; but I think that subsequent considerations have altered the opinions of that member, for I am given to understand that the scheme that is being prepared in my county does not contemplate anything like one committee, but rather eighteen or twenty committees. If there are to be anything like that number, it will obviously be impossible for the County Council to put on to such a number of committees a majority of their own members. Under those circumstances, I think it is wiser to have that elasticity in the Clause which the Government have provided, and which is so necessary for the working of an Act which at the best is not very easy to carry into effect.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I may point out that the sixth sub-Section of the first schedule provides—

> "That an education committee may, subject to any directions of the Council, appoint such and so many sub-committees, consisting either wholly or partly of members of the committee, as the committee thinks fit."

Therefore the difficulty my noble friend suggests could not arise.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not quite understand why the noble Lords opposite attach so much importance to this Amendment. If the County Councils are as unanimous as Lord Northbrook thinks, they will have nothing whatever to do but to appoint on each of their committees a majority of their own members. I have not the smallest doubt that my noble friend, who speaks with so much authority as the chairman of the County

Councils' Association, correctly represents to us the feeling which existed in that body when the subject was discussed in the summer of the present year, but undoubtedly we have received—not, I admit, officially, but we have received—from county members with whom many members of the Government are in constant communication, representations that in some counties, at all events, very great difficulty will be experienced in constituting these committees, if we insist upon a majority of the members of the committees being members of the Council. I am told, for instance—I am not absolutely certain of the fact—that a representation has been received from the county of Cornwall, which is a very large county, and where the distances are very great, that that Council must appoint, not one committee, but two committees, dividing the county into two areas, and that it would be absolutely impossible under the conditions sought to be imposed upon them to appoint those two committees. The principle of the Bill, and what we should desire, is that in all these local authorities the popularly-elected representatives should be in the majority, and where this can undoubtedly be done without difficulty and without inconvenience, as in the case of the boroughs, we insist, and we propose to continue to insist, on the majority consisting of popularly-elected members. But the case of counties is evidently very different, and although I quite admit that it may be taken to be an argument, so far as it goes, against this Bill, we are informed, and we think that it is a possibility, that County Councils may have great difficulty in constituting the committees they desire if this elasticity is denied them. County Councils, I think, are bodies of sufficient authority and sufficient intelligence to be entrusted with the composition of their committees, and if the Councils are so unanimous as the noble Lords opposite think they are on this subject, I do not see why you cannot leave it to them to constitute their committees entirely or mainly out of the members of their own body.

On Question "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 75; Not-Contents, 20.

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THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I should like to ask the noble Duke if he will answer the question I put a short time ago—whether the words at the end of this paragraph, "unless in the case of a county, the Council shall otherwise determine," govern both parts of the preceding sentence. Do the former words mean that the option is given both to appoint a majority simply, and to appoint a majority who shall be members of the Council?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think the words just proposed to be left out will now only apply to the last part of the paragraph—that the majority need not be members of the committee.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: There is some doubt about it, to the uninitiated, at any rate, and I venture to suggest that if the noble Duke's interpretation is the right one, as no doubt it is, the paragraph should run—

> "For the appointment by the Council of at least a majority of the committee who, unless in the case of a county the Council shall otherwise determine, shall also be members of the Council."

Perhaps the noble Duke will consider that on the Report stage.

*LORD RIBBLESDALE: I hope, my Lords, that I may be able to mollify the hitherto adamantine front of the noble Duke, and persuade him to accept the Amendment I now rise to move. At the least, I can claim for it that it is purely and simply educational, and that it takes us out of that dreary waste of religion and local government in which we have been sojourning so long. I am very mindful of the kind and salutary lecture which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack read me just now, and I quite admit that as laymen we are perhaps too willing to accept a sort of Lord Dundreary-ish attitude towards the drafting of a Bill, and not take enough trouble to get at it exactly. However, apart from any knowledge of drafting English, I think I can make no mistake as to the meaning of this Clause. Apparently, "nomination" means that the persons referred to here must be accepted by the County Council. The language is quite express. It says the scheme "shall provide for the appointment by the Council, on the nomination"; that is to say, the council are to have no option in the matter. These appointed nominees are to be the creation and the creatures of "other bodies." I suppose those other bodies are the Voluntary Schools Associations; or in the County Council of Middlesex they may be the Governors of Harrow, or, for anything in the Bill, they may be the College of Cardinals. As far as I am concerned, the area of choice cannot be too broad to please me; I should be willing even to welcome the appointment of the Agnostic squire in "Robert Ellesmere." It seems to me that the "religious atmosphere" cannot be claimed for purely secular matters. Was it not said of a certain doctor of divinity by Porson—"that he would have been a great Greek scholar if he had not fuddled his brains with theology!" I object to the inflexible obligation this Clause places on the County Council; and my Amendment proposes to give the Council what I claim is the very modest privilege of refusing to accept (if you like, without giving any reasons) some of the gentlemen who may be nominated by the "other bodies." I freely admit the educational importance and value of this Clause as a whole (it is for that reason, as I said just now, a sort of bird of paradise in these discussions), and I especially press this Amendment, having regard to the determination of the Government, expressed by the Prime Minister in the other House and by the noble Duke in this House, that the local authority is to be in the true sense of the word the arbiter of educational matters in this country. I pause here to express my surprise at the noble Duke (Northumberland) saying that he is afraid that the county councillors of the future, instead of being the good old-fashioned gentlemen, versed in highway and drainage lore, and so on, will be men elected altogether on the education ticket, and that County Councils will comprise much more educationists than anything else. Now that the whole of the education of the country is to be in the hands of the County Councils, I rather hope that the noble Duke is right; but, if he is right, that strengthens my contention, that it is very little to ask that these people who are to undertake the administration of education should not be obliged to accept, whether they like it or not, nominees from other bodies, but should be given the right which the word "recommendation" in place of the word "nomination" would give them, to refuse to accept such nominees if they could find better men. I trust the Government will give my Amendment favourable consideration.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 16, to leave out 'nomination' and insert 'recommendation'"—(*The Lord Ribblesdale.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am afraid that on this occasion I shall be obliged to maintain what my noble friend called my adamantine front, and decline to accept the Amendment. As they are closely connected, I may, perhaps, deal at the same time with this Amendment and that of the noble Earl (Northbrook)—[To leave out "on the nomination," and insert "from among the nominees"]. I confess that, of the two, the latter seems the less objectionable form, but I do not think it possible for us to accept either Amendment. We cannot yet know exactly how these schemes will be framed. They will have to be framed in the first instance, by the County Councils or Borough Councils themselves, and then elaborated with the assistance of the Education Department; but we hope that they will contain, perhaps among other elements, both those elements which were mentioned by the noble Lord; we hope that they will contain provision for persons nominated by Associations of Schools, or at any rate provide for the representation of schools in some other manner; and also, we certainly expect and hope, that they will contain provisions for the nomination by educational institutions such as the University Colleges, which are in the area of the authority, and perhaps by some of the great public schools. I think the members of the committee thus nominated would be found to be of extreme value. But it is not right, I think, to ask that bodies such as those I have mentioned should be asked to submit to the County Council a list of nominees, from whom the Council should select any they thought fit, or, perhaps, none at all. I think it is extremely desirable that the power of actual nomination by bodies of that sort should be contained in the scheme. It is no new principle. In schemes which have been drawn up by the Charity Commissioners, and schemes which are now drawn up by the Board of Education, for the management of certain endowments, invariably almost provision is made that certain members of the governing bodies should be nominated by certain institutions of the kind to which I have referred. I imagine that it is extremely improbable that institutions of that kind would consent to do what the noble Lords desire them to do, and, instead of having a right to nominate the person or persons they think most fit, to submit a list to be criticised, and perhaps rejected by the County Council. I think it is most desirable that these words should remain as they are.

*EARL SPENCER: I am sorry to hear the answer given by the noble Duke, for I attach also great importance to this matter. The Government have said that they wish to leave as much power as possible to the County Councils, and not to interfere with them. If that is so, the Councils should be left as independent as they can be, and so made to feel the responsibility of their duties. I maintain that if they are to have a number of their committees filled up in this way, without their having the direct nomination, it will take away from the responsibility of the Councils to a great extent. In the case of endowment schemes under the Charity Commissioners, to which the noble Duke referred, the circumstances are very different. I happen to be on the governing body of Harrow and on the governing body of Rugby. On those bodies there are, no doubt, persons nominated by different societies—one by the University of Cambridge, another by the Royal Society. But these bodies are not local bodies they meet in London, and it is perfectly easy for their members to meet. That cannot be the case with County Councils. Take my own county. It has not a university in it; it is a considerable way from Oxford or Cambridge, and there is no public school or any body in it which could nominate persons on these committees. I therefore say that this is rather a deceptive method of taking experts on to these bodies. I prefer myself, as I have often said, elective members; but I should not object to have a limited number of co-opted members; but if they are to be co-optive members, I maintain that it is the Council who is responsible for everything, who should elect them rather than the Board of Education. I think the greater responsibility which rests on the County Councils ought to invest in them the power of selecting these co-optive members, rather than that the power should be vested in other bodies.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I should like to give the noble Lord a concrete case. In the scheme of the County Borough of Manchester it is probable that provision would be made for the nomination of a representative of Owens College. The noble Earl opposite, as Chancellor of the Victoria University, is very well acquainted with Owens College. Does he think that it would be consistent with the dignity of that institution to undertake the duty of sending in a list of names from whom the County Council might select one, or perhaps reject all? Does he not think that it would be more consonant with the dignity of that institution to give them the power, which we are perfectly certain that they would exercise wisely, of nominating the man they thought fittest to represent them?

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I should like to express what the feeling of the County Councils Association is as against this Clause as it stands. In the case the noble Duke has just put there is no doubt that the County Council would at once ask such a body as Owens College to make a nomination.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Under your proposal they would have to send in a list of nominees.

LORD NORTHBROOK: I am dealing not with the words, but with the substance of the proposal. Let me explain what the County Councils object to. What they resent is the power given by this Clause to the Board of Education to insist on the Council taking the nominees of other bodies. Under this Clause if there is any difference between the County Councils and the Board of Education, the Board of Education have the power to make a scheme, and in that scheme, as the Clause stands, the Board of Education would give the right (the noble Duke used the word "right") to make a nomination which the County Council would be bound to accept. That is a manner of treating County Councils which they very much resent. The language used by the noble Duke in this House, I am bound to say, is far less conciliatory than the language used by Sir William Anson in another place. When this matter was discussed in another place, the answer given to the objections raised on the part of the County Councils was that the Board of Education had no intention whatever of interfering with the action of the County Councils. The noble Marquess opposite, only the other day said that the real wish of the Board of Education was to act with the County Councils in this matter of nominees. But the noble Duke has taken another line tonight, and has talked about giving the "right" of nomination to members of the County Councils.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I said the scheme would probably provide it.

LORD NORTHBROOK: It is the same thing. If the Board of Education does not agree to any scheme giving this right, what is it but forcing the nominated members upon the County Council? That is what they object to. I will not detain your Lordships about the matter, because I see that your Lordships are not inclined to support the views of the County Councils; but I very much regret the tone of the noble Duke's objections to this Amendment. I will close by asking one question, which, I think, at any rate, we have a right to have answered. The wording of the Clause is this: "For the appointment by the Council on the nomination where it appears desirable," and so on; but it does not say to whom it is to appear desirable.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I would like to intervene for one moment with regard to a remark that fell from the noble Earl opposite. The Board of Education will only intervene at the last moment, if all other assistance fails in the matter of selection. The Board of Education relies on those bodies to whom we have alluded to supply us with nominees, who will occupy a responsible place on the County Councils. But I endorse most cordially the words that fell from the noble Duke—that, if those important bodies representing colleges and similar institutions are to be told to send a number of nominees, from whom the Councils may pick as they choose, they will refuse, and, I think, very justly. Possibly, one of the great schools might send up two of its tutors, and the senior might be passed over and the junior taken. Surely no public body is going to put itself in that position. It is in order to preserve the advantage of co-opting from those bodies to which I have alluded the nominees that they would select themselves, that I hope your Lordships will not agree to the proposed alteration of these words. I am convinced that if this Amendment is accepted, the loss would be that of the committees. It would lose the committees the advantage of these important and influential bodies sending representatives, and you would have to fall back, perhaps, on the Board of Education to send anyone they think fit, in consequence of your having refused to give these bodies the power of nominating.

*EARL SPENCER: With regard to the "concrete case" put to me by the noble Duke, I think it is very likely that the County Borough of Manchester would say, "We should certainly like to have a representative of Owens College; we will ask them to nominate one"; there would be no difficulty about it.

LORD MONKSWELL: On the Clause as it stands I understand the County Councils would be bound to accept these nominations, but Sir William Anson stated in another place that that was not the meaning of the Clause, and that the County Councils would not be obliged to accept the nominations. I should like to ask what the view of the noble Duke is as to that?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It depends on the scheme.

LORD MONKSWELL: But when a nomination is sent to the County Council will the County Council have the power to refuse it?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I cannot tell what will be in the scheme until the scheme is proposed by the County Council.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I think my noble friend is justified in pressing for an answer to this question. Is the County Council entitled to refuse the nomination of one of these bodies referred to in this section? This is a question not of the scheme, but of the interpretation of the section.

LORD WENLOCK: Will the noble Duke reply to the question of the noble Earl, as to the exact significance of the words "where it appears desirable?"

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think all noble Lords are just as capable of interpreting the words of the section as I am. I should think that "where it appears desirable," meant, where it appears desirable to the Council, but my interpretation does not carry any weight with it; noble Lords must make up their own minds as to what the words mean.

LORD NORTHBROOK: If I may be allowed to use the expression, I think that is rather a curious answer to come from the noble Duke, because an Amendment was moved in the House of Commons to insert after the word "desirable," the words "to the Council," and that Amendment the Government refused to accept. I think it would be very desirable not to put in such inflexible words if you have to make the confession that you do not know exactly what the words mean.

On Question, "That the word 'nomination' stand part of the Clause," resolved in the affirmative.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF: My Lords, I attach very considerable importance to the Amendment I now rise to move. These education committees will have functions to perform which will be of the utmost importance to the non-provided schools. They will, at any rate, be an advisory committee, and very possibly they may be delegates of the County Council to carry into effect all the provisions ot the Act. They will have, for instance, to deal with the question of repairs, which is a vital question for many of the smaller non-provided schools. They will have to deal with the question of extension of schools and the provision of new schools. They will have to deal with salaries to be allotted to teachers, and the number of teachers, and though I do not for a moment suppose that there will be any partiality on any education committee, yet there will be a natural bias for schools provided and maintained by themselves rather than for schools outside their own particular province. It is of great importance that the views of the managers of the non-provided schools with regard to equality of scheme and equipment of every kind should be presented, at least, to the committee? Then they have the absolute control over the syllabus and over the text-books to be used. I can hardly fancy a point upon which the education committees are more likely (perhaps unwittingly) to go against the wishes of the managers of the non-provided schools if they do not hear what they have to say. A committee might recommend as a historical book Foxe's "Book of Martyrs," which might not suit some of the managers. There might be a variety of text-books upon which the managers of non-provided schools ought to be heard, because the peace of the schools and the pecuniary interests of the schools would be concerned. What chance have the managers of certain denominational schools in this country of any representation on the education committee. The Church of England is certain always to have both on the Council and on the education committee, members of their denomination who will, of course, present the case of the non-provided schools belonging to the Church of England; but the religious minorities, the Wesleyans, the Jews, the Roman Catholics, will not have the remotest chance of getting a member on the education committee, except by means of some such Amendment as that which I now propose. Even with regard to the religious instruction you now give to the public by means of the two managers whom the County Council nominate and appoint a voice in the religious instruction of the school, and selected as they may be by the education committee, they may prove extraordinarily inconvenient and distasteful to the other managers of these schools. Surely it is only fair and just that somebody should be able to present to the education committee the views of the managers of the class of schools to which I refer. As I said, these small schools will have no chance of getting upon the education committees without some such provision. Noble Lords will observe that I limit the Amendment in two ways; in the first place, that the association shall be approved by the Board of Education, and therefore that it must be an Association which the Board of Education think competent to nominate a person who will be of use to the committee in the cause of education; and in the next place, there is the further condition that the nomination is not to apply to any class of schools except some class that would not otherwise obtain representation. So that if the County Council put a member of the denomination on the education committee of their own accord the right of nomination would not accrue. It is only to save these schools from being wholly unrepresented on a committee which is to deal with a variety of subjects which touch their pockets and affect in the strongest way the whole of the educational prosperity of the school, that I ask that this right of nomination shall be given to associations such as I have described. I shall be told, perhaps, by the noble Duke who, I trust, will at least meet this Amendment with indulgence and sympathy, that under the words "other bodies" such an association of voluntary schools as I have been speaking of could offer a nomination, but as I read the Clause that nomination need not be in the scheme. And that brings me to observe upon certain remarks that have fallen from Lord Northbrook and other noble Lords on that side of the House as to the effect of this Clause. It appears to me clear that unless the scheme names the body who is to nominate a member of the education committee, the body will have no right at all of making a nomination, and, consequently, no chance of getting an appointment. "Where it is desirable" I think means, as the noble Duke said, desirable to the Council; therefore, if the Council do not think it desirable to nominate a particular body, that body would never get an appointment made. I quite agree that the Board of Education is not powerless in the matter; I think they have got a discretion also, because any scheme must be approved by them; consequently—I will not take an association of voluntary schools as an example, but I will take the case already put of Owens College, Manchester—the Board of Education might say "we will not approve of this scheme unless it includes Owens College, Manchester, as having a right to nominate." Then Owens College would get into the scheme; but unless the scheme fixes the body who has the right to nominate, that right will not arise. If the body gets nominated in the scheme, then the appointment will follow. I am interested—of course I need not tell your Lordships—in the Roman Catholic schools, but what I am asking for is not for the benefit of Roman Catholic schools alone. The same privilege would attach to Jewish schools, and Wesleyan schools, and there may be places where even the powerful Church of England might be glad to take advantage of this Amendment. For aught I know there are some districts in Wales, and in some large boroughs, perhaps (Leicester, for example), in which the Church of England would not have a member of the Church of England on the education committee, and in which, therefore, an association of voluntary schools belonging to the Church of England ought, according to the principle of this Amendment, to have the right of nominating a member to state their case on the education committee. I agree that such an association of voluntary schools as I have described may be possibly admitted to be one of the bodies who might be in the scheme, but the chance of their being in the scheme laid down by the County Council is not a very proximate chance. Boards of Education are not infallible, and there might be Boards of Education who absolutely refuse to sanction any scheme of this sort. Therefore it is that I put my Amendment after the word "nomination" and before the words "where it appears desirable." I do hope that your Lordships will think that I am not asking too much when I ask that an association of schools belonging to a religious minority, possibly a minority that is in the locality extremely unpopular and even odious, should yet have a representative on a committee which is to deal with matters of the closest and dearest interest to them. I believe I should be out of order if I quote the words used in another place by the Prime Minister, but he said that he thought there ought to be some method discovered, by which the representation of these religious minorities should be ensured on the education committees. Noble Lords opposite have repeatedly urged that all interests ought to be represented, and I am now pleading for an interest which, unless it has a voice, is not unlikely to receive unjust treatment at the hands of some education committees. I trust I shall be met with some sympathy from the "adamantine front" of the noble Duke, and I can only appeal to him that he will not entirely refuse the scheme of the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 16, after 'nomination' to insert 'of associations of voluntary schools within their area, approved by the Board of Education, and comprising a class of schools which would not otherwise obtain representation on the committee, &c."

LORD REDESDALE: I must apologise for intervening in this debate, being so recently a Member of your Lordships' House, but this Amendment of my noble friend's affects a class in which I am very largely interested. It appears to me that the Amendment, while safeguarding the class of schools to which my noble friend referred, cuts out other bodies.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF: No, I do not cut them out. I leave other bodies subject to the pleasure of the County Council first, and of the Education Department, but "and other bodies" remains exactly where it is after the words "where it appears desirable."

LORD REDESDALE: I do not think it is quite clear here, but I will not press the point.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The terms of the sub-Section were certainly intended not to exclude associations of voluntary schools, and although it was not in drafting, the Clause considered necessary or desirable that associations should be specifically mentioned, other ways of providing what the noble Lord desires might be found. But I understand that something very much approaching a pledge has been given by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on this subject, and I think I may say that we will undertake to deal with the matter on Report. I do not think the Amendment drafted by the noble Lord could be accepted, but we will undertake to insert the words "including associations of voluntary schools" after the word "bodies," so that the Clause would run:

> "For the appointment by the Council on the nomination, where it appears desirable, of other bodies, including associations of schools."

and so on. If necessary, the matter can be further discussed on Report, but I will at once move that those words be there inserted.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF: I gratefully accept what the noble Lord says—that he will introduce these words now—but may I reserve to myself the right of considering the matter further on Report?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Certainly.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF: Then I withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment made—

> "In page 10, line 17 after the word 'bodies,' be inserted the words "including associations of voluntary schools.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

*LORD COLERIDGE said the Amendment he now moved provided for the retirement of the members of the education committees. If the committee were merely a committee of the Council of a County Borough, of course it would come to an end with the life of the body who appointed it. If the view of the Government was that an education committee of a County Council was in the same position, there would be no need of this Amendment, but he understood the education committee was not a committee of the County Council; in other words, the County Council was capable of nominating persons on to the education committee, who would remain members of the committee long after they had ceased to be members of the Council. That was an anomaly that ought to be remedied. What period was to be placed on membership of the committee? Were the nominated members to be members for life, or for a definite period? In the Lower House, Sir William Anson had said that nobody had ever dreamt that the Committees were to be permanent bodies, and expressed the view that members of the Council on the committee would cease to be on the committee when they ceased to be members of the Council. But what then would be the position of the committee? It would be left with only the co-opted members. His Amendment was framed to meet the double case of the County Council and the Borough Councils. Members of the latter went out in thirds, and therefore the Council itself never came to an end; he therefore proposed that no member of an education committee, whether a member of a Borough Council or of a County Council, should remain a member of the committee for more than three years.

Amendment moved—

> "Page 10, line 25, after 'committee,' to insert as a new paragraph:—'(*c*) for the periodic retirement of members of the committee, so that no member of the committee shall be appointed for a longer period than three years, but so that every member on retirement shall be eligible for re-appointment.'"—(*The Lord Coleridge.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said this was a question to be decided rather in the scheme than in the Bill. Sub-Section (2) of Clause 22 provided that—

> "Any scheme or Provisional Order under this Act may contain such incidental or consequential provisions as may appear necessary or expedient."

It would not be desirable to lay down exactly the same conditions for every scheme.

Amendment negatived.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that sub-Section (4) provided that a person should be disqualified for membership of an education committee who held office or place of profit, or had any share or interest in a contract, and so on, but it wound up that—

> "No such disqualification shall apply to a person by reason only of his holding office in a school or college, aided, provided or maintained by the Council."

His original intention was (and it would perhaps have been more logical) to move to delete this proviso altogether; but it had been pointed out to him that it might be desirable that a person should be on the committee who belonged to a college, and therefore he would content himself with proposing to leave out the words "school or." He held that the proper place for a schoolmaster was in his school, and it would be no gain to the school or to the committee if the schoolmaster left his school work and devoted his time to the work of the committee, as would frequently be the case.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 31, to leave out 'school or.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD asked how the noble Earl differentiated between a school and a college. In the definition Clause the word "college" was declared to include "any educational institution, whether residential or not." Would anything, therefore, be gained by the omission in this Section of the words "school or"?

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he was not the draftsman of the Bill, and was not responsible for its definitions, or anything else.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said the Government substantially agreed with the noble Earl, but he thought the case could be best met by the addition to the sub-Section of the words "otherwise than under Part III. of this Act." That would exclude teachers in elementary schools.

*EARL SPENCER: Will it also exclude teachers in a college?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: No.

*EARL SPENCER: I cannot quite see the difference. If you exclude a teacher in an elementary school because he may be interested in a subject coming up before the Committee, does not the same argument apply to a teacher in a college within the county?

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY: I rather regret the decision of the Government, for this reason. On the Technical Instruction Committees elementary school teachers are frequently found to be most valuable members, as they bring a knowledge on many subjects which is by no means common among managers. I hope the Government will reconsider this.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I am quite prepared to accept the suggestion of the noble Duke, and to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment made—

"In page 10, line 32, by adding after the word 'Council,' the words "otherwise than under Part III. of this Act."—(*The Lord President.*)

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK, explaining the next Amendment, said he thought it very desirable to have these co-opted members on the committee, but he did not think they ought to be allowed to vote in respect of their own salaries.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 32, after 'council' to insert 'Provided that no such person shall vote on any question relating to the salary or conditions of employment of any member of the teaching staff of any such school or college."(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Does the noble Lord think this necessary, after the Amendment that has just been made?

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I will not press it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19:—

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Sub-Section (*c*) of this Clause runs thus—

"The County Council shall charge such portion as they think fit, not being less than one-half or more than three-fourths of any expenses incurred by them in respect of capital expenditure on account of the provision or improvement of any public elementary school on the parish or parishes which in the opinion of the Council are served by the school."

Under that sub-Section at least one-fourth, and possibly up to half, of the capital expenditure on a school which is incurred by the County Council may be put upon the general county rate. Now, I want to ask what are the reasons for the insertion of the words, "not being less than one-half or more than three-fourths." As the Bill originally stood the words ran—

> "The County Council shall charge any expenses on that parish which in the opinion of the Council is served by the school."

That was perfectly just, and it was a principle to which the Government for a long time adhered. I have endeavoured to trace what occurred, and I find that the Government for a long time argued that this was the right thing to do, as I believe your Lordships will think also, but at some period, for some reason that I cannot ascertain, at all events from the Debates, these words were inserted. So that the result now is that, wherever a new school is built by the County Council, at least one-fourth of the cost will be thrown on the county generally. I ask, is that fair to the other parishes, who have already borne the expenditure of providing their own schools? I do not understand how it can be justified. The Government have stated that it is their wish to keep all denominational schools as they are, but if you want to turn a denominational school into a county school nothing will do it so rudely as this sub-Section. After all, it is £. s. d. that governs the British ratepayer; and I put it to all noble Lords who have had any experience in these matters, whether it is not really economy in the rates that has had more to do with stopping School Boards than any other cause. This Clause is one of several reasons—one or two of which I have quoted in the course of these debates—that make me see very clearly that the number of voluntary schools will be rapidly reduced.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 12, line 3, to leave out from 'charge' to 'any' in line 5."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The County Council has to decide whether a new school is to be built in the parish or not, and it appears that some part of the expenses ought to be borne by the authority which is to decide on the erection of the new school. If that were not so, the Council would be deciding on expenditure which the country as a whole has not got to meet. The change has been rendered necessary by the new financial Clauses introduced into the Bill. The Necessitous Schools Grant formerly available for the purpose of new schools now goes to the county and not to the district. The Bill thus actually deprives them of some revenue which would have been at their disposal under the old system. For that reason also, it appears desirable that the whole of the expenditure should not be thrown upon the locality, but that part of it should be borne by the county.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: The noble Duke says that the Necessitous Schools Grant was formerly applied for capital expenditure. I speak subject to correction; but is the noble Duke sure that he is right? I rather think that that grant was never given for those purposes, only for increasing schools and so on.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The noble Earl is thinking of the Aid Grant for Voluntary Schools. The Necessitous Schools Grant was given to the locality, and was available for any portion of their expenditure, including the payment of interest on the debt for building schools.

*EARL SPENCER: I hardly think the noble Duke has quite understood this Amendment. I may not properly understand it myself; but I do not think my noble friend at all disputes the point that this charge should be divided.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Yes I do; certainly.

*EARL SPENCER: As I read it, if the Amendment was carried, it will leave to the County Council to say what part of the charge is to go on the parish.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: No.

*EARL SPENCER: Anyhow, that, I maintain, is the proper way of doing it. We continually have questions on the

County Councils as to what is to be given out of the county rates for improvements in particular places. That is one of the matters on which they are most particular, and they do it with the greatest care. I think the best thing is not to tie it up strictly, but to leave it open to the County Council to settle what part should be paid by the county rate and what by the parish.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I think that this is one of the most important points that we could have discussed during these debates. The noble Lord said it is right that we should bear the cost of these additions to schools because the County Council is the body to determine whether the addition should be made or not. I would point out that it is not altogether at the discretion of the County Councils; if the population increases, increased accommodation becomes an absolute necessity. Section (*d*) contains the same provision with regard to expenses incurred to meet liabilities on loans of transferred School Boards. I happen to have property in two counties at the opposite ends of England, and in each case this proviso will bear very hardly. Take the county of Northumberland. In Tyneside you have a very thickly populated manufacturing and colliery population, and in the west of the county you have an area larger than the county of Suffolk, and more thinly populated than any county of England—moor-land and hill country. This latter part of the county has provided voluntary schools during all this time at its own expense, and now what you are going to say to these people in this thinly populated district is, "You must, whether the County Council likes it or not, bear one-half—you may have to bear three-fourths—of the debt which this rich, populous, growing part of the country has incurred for its schools, and, more than that, if in the future this growing, rich, and populous part of the county goes on increasing, as it inevitably will, you will have to bear one-half, and perhaps three-fourths of all the additional accommodation that will be required." It seems to me impossible to conceive anything more monstrous. These country districts have nothing whatever to do with the towns. I do not say that the proximity of a large town may not increase the prosperity of a country district, but in these large areas it does so very slightly. It is most unfair that these country districts should bear the expense incurred by the rich part of the county. I just mentioned a county in which I had property, namely, the county of Suffolk. I will not detain your Lordships with details, but everybody knows that there are parts of the county of Suffolk which are very populous; unfortunately for myself, I know also that there are rural districts in Suffolk where there is a dry and unproductive sandy soil, and where it is almost impossible to let your farms, so much depressed is agriculture. That is the district you are going to charge with the expenses of school accommodation in the environs of London. I say I cannot conceive anything more unjust from any point of view. I should like to point out that the argument of the noble Duke that the County Council are the people who incur this expenditure is in the case of past expenditure, if he will allow me to say so with all respect, incorrect. The County Councils have not incurred the debts of the School Board, and with regard to the new Councils it is incorrect in another sense, because it is not at the discretion of the County Council to give additional accommodation, but it depends on the rate of increase in the population.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Let me draw your Lordships' attention to what the effect of this Amendment would be. In either case it would be to place everything on the parish in which the school was situated. I think it would be unfair. We consider that the county ought to take over some of the burdens of these rates.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved an Amendment to provide for the case where, instead of building a school, the premises are hired.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 6, after 'expenditure,' to insert 'or rent.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

*EARL SPENCER: I think that this Amendment raises again the question of Privilege. The same Amendment was put down in another place on Report, and it was struck out by the Speaker because it had not gone through the proper form of a Resolution in the Committee of Ways and Means. If this is put in here, I presume it will be ruled out by the Speaker in the same way.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think, probably, the noble Earl anticipates rightly the fate which any Amendment of this sort would meet with in another place, but according to the opinion of high authorities this House is not debarred by any ruling of its own from discussing such points; it is entirely for its own consideration whether it should discuss at much length Amendments of which we know the almost certain fate when they reach another place.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I would only remind your Lordships that in 1897 the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack interfered twice or thrice, or four times, with noble Lords on this side in their moving Amendments, and that they acquiesced in his advice, and that the House on that occasion did not discuss (and I think wisely) privilege Amendments such as this.

*THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I must repeat to your Lordships what I have more than once said in the course of these debates. Indeed, I think it is irregular, and not right after what I have already explained, that the noble Lord should attribute to me a course of action which I have more than once explained that I never took. What I in did 1897 was this, and I should be prepared to do it again. Certain Amendments were proposed which seemed to me so flagrant and so outrageous a breach of the privilege of the House of Commons that it would be absolutely certain that when they went to another place they would be struck out. I did nothing beyond this. I put it to the noble Lords—I think these were the words—to consider whether it was consistent with the dignity of this House to discuss and divide upon Amendments which undoubtedly would be rejected by the House of Commons. That is all I did, and then without any determination of this House the noble Lords, apparently being convinced by my observations—it was only advice—acting on their own motion and their own responsibility, withdrew all their Amendments. That is what happened, and I hope it will not be quoted again as any ruling by me when it was only a suggestion.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I did not quote it as a ruling of the noble and learned Lord. I said it was by the advice of the noble and learned Lord that those Amendments were withdrawn. However, the fact remains that the noble Duke opposite admits that he fears the same fate will be shared by these particular Amendments that he is moving.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Not this Amendment.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I thought the noble Duke said so.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Well I hope that will not be the case.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I appeal to the House whether that was not the idea that was conveyed by what the noble Duke said—that he admitted the fate which this Amendment was likely to meet.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: No; I meant the Amendment which we have just been discussing. I do not know what view might be taken of my Amendment, but I trust that as it is really little more than a drafting Amendment, and is necessary to supply an omission in the scheme of the Bill, it may get through, but the other Amendment which we have been discussing up to now would have been, I think, met with a complete reversal.

*EARL SPENCER: I only referred to the question of the word "rent."

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: And my noble friend made his point perfectly clear. Positively the Amendment now proposed by the noble Duke is one that was ruled out of order by the Speaker on Report in the other House, because it had not been introduced in the Committee of Ways and Means.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: As to that I will not speak with certainty, but I hope the other House will be disposed to take a lenient view of any breach of its privileges that it may consider that we have committed.

On Question, "That the word 'rent' be there inserted," resolved in the affirmative.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I have an Amendment on the Paper, in page 12, line 7, after the words "public elementary school," to insert the words "provided by them." It must be a county school which is built; if it were a voluntary school being built it would be impossible for any expenditure to be made upon that by the County Council owing to Clause (*d*) which obliges the voluntary schools to provide any money for purposes of that sort. I think these words will have to be inserted.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I regret that I have been unable to hear the observations of the noble Lord. Perhaps he will bring the matter up on Report.

The EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Then I wish to move an Amendment in sub-Section (*d*), which again raises the point we were discussing on sub-Section (*c*). Sub-Section (*d*) is a very much more serious matter. This sub-Section provides that of the loans incurred by School Boards that are taken over, not less than one-fourth, and possibly up to one-half, may be charges upon the general county rate. I really cannot understand upon what principle that proposal is made. Remember, these are loans with regard to expenditure from which the county has had no benefit whatever. The county parishes have all been obliged to build their own schools in the best way they could. The board schools have built their schools out of these loans, but now, when they are transferred to the County Council, the county is to be forced to come upon its rates for no less than one-fourth, and possibly for one-half, of the portion of the loans remaining. This is not the original principle of the Bill. The original principle was that these loans should be charged and levied on the districts in which they had been incurred. That was the just and proper course to take, but now a very considerable portion of these loans are to be paid by the county. I will give a single concrete instance that has been furnished to me. The Chairman of the Worcester County Council says that the county has had no benefit whatever from these loans, and nothing to do with contracting them, but he says "at the present time in Worcester county. the School Boards owe a sum of £116.000." It follows from this enactment that no less than £29,000, and possibly £58,000, may be put upon the general rates of the county. I am utterly at a loss to understand upon what principle that imposition is raised.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 11, to leave out 'not being less than one-half, or more than three-fourths.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: It is very edifying, of course, to hear the speeches of the noble Lord, but I can only repeat the answer I gave when we were discussing sub-Section (*c*), namely, that the County Council are now drawing the Necessitous Schools Grant under the Act of 1897, which used to go to the parishes in aid of these loans, and therefore that the county should in justice take some part of the burden.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: What is the amount that they used to draw?

EARL BEAUCHAMP: As I understand the Clause, the County Council, in taking over the liabilities of extinct School Boards, is responsible for three-fourths of that liability. It is obvious that one-fourth still remains to be paid. I should like to know who is going to pay that.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It is paid by whoever pays it now.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: But the School Boards are extinct.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The parishes liable for it before are liable for it still. Surely sub-Sections (*c*) and (*d*) must go together, and we have already decided that the whole county is to be liable for a portion.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: But this is past expenditure.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: This is past, but I say if the county, as we have decided, is to be liable for a part of the future expenditure on the provision of new schools, it would not be equitable that districts referred to in Section (*d*) should go on paying the whole of their expenses and a portion of the expenses of the rest of the county.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: It is not their expenses; it is the liabilities the School Boards incurred previously to their being handed over to the County Council.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: But they are to pay the expenses exactly the same as the county does in the future.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: All I can say is, that it is a very ordinary principle that everybody should pay hi own debts. However, I clearly cannot take the matter further.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendments moved—

"In page 12, line 13, after 'loans' to insert 'or rent'; in line 28, after 'apply' to insert 'in lieu of the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, relating to accounts and audit'; in lines 36 and 37 to leave out 'committee or managers' and insert 'education committee established under this Act, or to the managers of any public elementary school'; in line 38, after 'authority,' to insert 'but the auditor of those accounts shall have the same powers with respect to managers as he would have if the managers were officers of the local education authority.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20:—

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE explained that the Amendment he had to move was suggested by the Local Government Board, who were of opinion that they might want to hold local inquiries, not only with respect to sanctioning loans, but also with respect to giving their sanction to an extension of the limit of rate under Clause 2, and with respect to making Orders adapting the provisions of local Acts.

Amendment moved—

"In page 13, line 6, to leave out sub-Section (2)."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21:—

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL remarked upon the large powers of delegation which this Clause gave, and drew the attention of the Government to the provisions of the Parish Councils Act, which distinctly prohibited Parish Councils having any part in the management of parish schools. This Clause might refer to schools or colleges, which no one would desire should be put under the control of Parish Councils; while, on the other hand, the parish schools were deliberately excluded by the Parish Councils Act. He thought the Clause must have crept in by some oversight.

Amendment moved—

"In page 13, line 17, to leave out 'or parishes.'"

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think this had better be put down on Report.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said that as this Clause stood, there seemed to be no power to make any grant to an evening school under the Elementary Education Act for the teaching of anything but the three R's. He did not think that it could have been intended thus to limit the teaching in such a school. A great many other things were taught in the elementary day schools; why should the evening schools be specially restricted? He did not appreciate making such a fetish of the three R's. Many students might desire to learn a great deal more than the three R's, and it would be of advantage for them to receive instruction in some practical subjects. The Amendment he proposed would leave the education authority to define the elementary instruction which was suitable to the needs of the district.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 13, to leave out 'instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic,' and insert 'elementary instruction.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Before any discussion is taken upon this, I may be allowed to say that this is an extremely important and also a rather complicated question. I am intending to confer with the Prime Minister upon the subject in the course of tomorrow, and I shall probably be able to state the view of the Government better upon the Report stage.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: Then I withdraw the Amendment for the moment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND moved an Amendment to sub-Section 11. As the Bill passed the House of Commons, the sub-Section read—

"That county councillors elected for an electoral division, consisting wholly of a borough or urban district, whose Council are a local education authority, for the purpose of Part III. of this Act shall not act or vote."

The words "act or" were struck out presumably because it was thought that voting was acting and that the words were superfluous. He thought, however, the word "vote" should not stand alone; he did not see why the time of the council should be taken up by speeches of members who had no interest in the matters in hand. He moved that the words should be "shall not speak or vote."

Amendment moved,—

"In page 15, line 26, after 'not,' to insert speak or.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

*EARL SPENCER said this was a point of some difficulty; it really introduced what was an old friend to some of their Lordships—namely, the in-and-out question, which on a certain Irish Bill was very much discussed. The in-and-out method was applied in London on various County Councils. The provision in the Bill would work very curiously. Take a Borough Council that had authority under certain Acts separately from the authority of the County Council. Two or three county councillors might be on the Borough Council, and under the Bill those councillors could not vote on the County Council on educational matters, although they might vote on the Borough Council. Again, take a committee of the Education Department; if it was purely a committee for primary education they could not vote there, but if it was an advisory committee of the Education Department—a committee to advise on primary education as well as on secondary schools—what would happen then? Again, there might be a county inspector who was county inspector for both secondary and primary educatoin. Were these members of the same authority to abstain from voting or not? It would be an important matter to the authority in the case of two or three of its very best men on the education committee being thrown out by reason of this Clause. The matter was very complicated. With regard to the Amendment, he did not see why, if these persons were to be excluded from voting, they should not be excluded also from speaking.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The noble Lord is quite right in saying that the provision which was originally inserted in the Bill in Committee in the House of Commons contained the words "act or." These words were, however, subsequently struck out in the House of Commons on the suggestion of a great many Members that they would prevent many of their best men being on the various education committees. It was thought that these members would be most useful to the committees, although they did not vote, if they could attend the meetings and speak on the various subjects that came up for discussion. It is quite possible there may be some complication such as suggested by the noble Earl, but I do not understand exactly what it is. All it says is that they cannot vote on any matters relating to Part III. of the Act.

*EARL SPENCER: But the committee may be a committee to act for secondary and also for primary education. They would be voting really for the election of the committee that was to attend to primary education.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: This provision refers to the authority itself, not to the committee.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: Yes, and that seems to me to be the answer to the noble Duke. The words are "in respect of any question arising before the County Council." There is nothing to prevent the County Councils appointing the members of the committees. What this says is that when something is coming up before the County Council they shall not vote. Then I say if they cannot vote they should not speak. If the noble Duke is right, it would mean that they could not vote on the education committee. It cannot mean that.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Suppose it were a question of appointing an inspector for secondary education and elementary education, then these particular people could vote for his appointment as inspector of secondary education, but not for his appointment as inspector of elementary education.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: With regard to the question of speaking and not voting, it is exactly the same provision as is in force now on County Councils with regard to small boroughs that had to manage certain matters; they are allowed to speak on the County Council, but not allowed to vote. It is a convenient procedure; there is no reason why they should not be allowed to speak, but if there is a division, they ought not to be allowed to record a vote.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved to add the following new sub-Sections—

"Sub-Sections 1 and 5 of Section 87 of the Local Government Act, 1888 (which relate to local enquiries), shall apply with respect to any order, consent, sanction, or approval which the Local Government Board are authorised to make or give under this Act.

"The amount which would be produced by any rate in the pound shall be estimated for the purposes of this Act in accordance with the regulations made by the Local Government Board.

"Teachers in a school maintained, but not provided, by the local education authority shall be in the same position as respects disqualification for office as members of the authority as teachers in a school provided by the authority."

Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, in moving the next Amendment, said it surely could not be intended that the census of 1901 should be operative for all time.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 33, to leave out 'census of 1901' and insert 'last published census.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It certainly is very much intended. It is proposed to make a stereotyped distinction between those boroughs which are autonomous and those which are not. If it was not for this provision, no County Council would be able to make a scheme for organising the education within its borough; it would never know what boroughs shall be included in the county and what may become autonomous.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: Then I understand if a county in future increases and becomes very much larger, and is large enough under this section to claim a separate jurisdiction, it is not to have it because it is estimated, not upon its then population, but on the population of 1901. Allow me to give an instance. There is a borough now which is composed of 9,000; in ten years, when the next census is taken, it is found to have 20,000 people; but because it was 9,000 in the year 1901 this Act is not to apply. Surely that cannot be intended.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It is intended. If the other principle were adopted the borough of 10,000, which now is under the Bill autonomous, when the population fell to 9,000, ought to cease to be autonomous. That is not the proposal. It is proposed that those boroughs which are in the position described in the Bill shall be and remain autonomous, so that both they, and the counties, should be able to organise their educational schemes.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24 agreed to.

First Schedule :—

THE EARL OF LYTTON said the Amendment he proposed to move was intimately connected with the point their Lordships had been discussing on Clause 18. As he was not in his place during that discussion, he might be permitted to say that his object in putting down these Amendments was to make it perfectly clear that when the sub-committed of the education committee of the County Council acted in its capacity as a school attendance committee, it should have power to act in that capacity without reference to the committee or the Council. He understood that that was really the intention of the Bill. If he had some assurance from the noble Duke that words would be inserted in the Bill to make that quite clear, he would not press the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 25, after 'fit' insert 'And may, subject as aforesaid, delegate to any such sub-committee any powers or duties which may have been delegated to the committee by the Council. Every such sub-committee shall report its proceedings to the committee by which it was appointed, but to the extent to which the committee shall, subject as aforesaid, so direct the acts and proceedings of the sub-committee shall not be required to be submitted for approval to the committee or to the Council.'"—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I believe that it will be possible to introduce words on Report which will make the point quite clear.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND moved to substitute "six months" for "three months" as the maximum interval between the meetings of managers. Many of these schools were in sparsely-populated districts, and there was no necessity for such frequent meetings. He saw no necessity for putting any limitation at all but if any were to be put in the inconvenience would be diminished by making it six months instead of three.

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 10, to leave out 'three' and insert 'six'."—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said another noble Lord on the opposite side had proposed that the maximum should be one month. Three months was a pretty fair compromise.

LORD WENLOCK thought the noble Earl could not have been a manager of a school or he would not have made such a proposition.

*LORD REAY was able to state that his noble and learned friend, Lord Davey, had put the Amendment on the Paper as, from his actual experience as member of a School Board in a rural parish, he knew that the board had to meet once a month, and even oftener. The school was very efficient.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND remarked that that was rather a reason for his Amendment. There might be many boards of managers who wish to meet frequently, but why compel them to meet when it might not be necessary?

On Question, Amendment negatived.

First Schedule agreed to.

Second Schedule :—

Drafting Amendments made.

Amendments made—

"In page 20, line 36, after 'day' to insert as a new paragraph, '(15). During the period between the passing of this Act and the appointed day, the managers of any public elementary school, whether provided by a School Board or not, and any school attendance committee, shall furnish to the Council, which will on the appointed day become the local education authority, such information as that Council may reasonably require.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

*LORD KINNAIRD: Apparently several noble Lords have been approached with reference to the Amendment I now rise to move, and I understand that the answer given in another place with reference to the reason for excluding teachers of voluntary schools is not altogether considered satisfactory, and the teachers therefore desire to have their Lordships' opinion upon this matter. I understand that in another place the answer was that the School Boards ceased to exist, and that therefore, as it was necessary to put the teachers under some new authority, and therefore it was well to mention them; whereas the employers of the voluntary school teachers are not dispossessed, and therefore there is no reason to protect their interests. I think your Lordships will see that there are possible eventualities which might make it very necessary to protect the interests of the voluntary school teachers. For instance, there are several hundreds of voluntary school teachers whose salaries have, through care and passing good examinations and long service, risen considerably, and above the salaries of School Board teachers. Under the new authority the salaries of those teachers might be decreased, and they might be told that if they did not care to take the reduced salary they had better go. I understand that without these words being put in they would not get the protection that is afforded to School Board teachers. Then there is another question: there might be a doubling up of sundry schools. Under the School Boards it would be obligatory on the School Board authority to find some other occupation or to give a retiring allowance. That would not be the case with voluntary school teachers. There are many other questions that might arise. I will not trouble your Lordships further at this late hour, but the teachers are anxious to know whether the Government would consider their position, either by accepting this Amendment, or by dealing with the matter in their own way on Report.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 16, after 'officers' to insert 'or teachers.'"—(*The Lord Kinnaird.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: There is no doubt the fact that the School Board teacher is technically described as an officer, whereas the voluntary teacher is not so described, makes some difference in their respective positions. The word "officers" appears in the Bill with regard to defence and so on where the word "teachers" does not appear. It is easy to see that that would naturally cause a great deal of uneasiness to voluntary school teachers. I therefore trust that the question will be made clear in some way.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My noble friend, Lord Meath, who is unfortunately prevented by indisposition from being here, has asked me to speak for him. I understand from what the noble Lord (Lord Kinnaird) has said, that the argument which was used when this matter was raised in the other House was that the masters, so to speak, of the teachers has changed in the board schools, whereas they had not changed in the voluntary schools, and therefore the teachers in the voluntary schools were not entitled to the advantages of the teachers in the board schools.

*LORD KINNAIRD: I should like to read what was actually said. This is what appears in the *Hansard* report. Sir William Anson said:

"'Recorded service,' for the purpose of The Elementary School Teachers' (Superannuation) Act, 1898, does not include service in technical and secondary schools. But teachers transferred to such schools will not lose the benefit of the contributions they have already made while in 'recorded service.' The Government have no intention of extending the provisions of the Superannuation Act."

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: It was a true and sound argument, I think, to say that the masters in both schools had been changed. You are changing the School Board into the local Education authority and you are changing the managers into the local education authority also, because you are giving to the education authority the power of dismissing these teachers "on educational grounds." I should like to ask the noble Duke this question. Would it be an "educational ground" to dismiss a teacher because you could get one cheaper. That case is extremely likely to arise. Supposing the education authority can say—"We can get some good teaching at a cheaper rate than we are paying for it," would that justify them in dismissing the teacher on educational grounds? If not, then, are we to understand that no consideration of salary will justify the dismissal of a teacher by the education authority? If fixity of tenure as regards all questions of salary can be conferred on the teachers that should be comprised in the Bill. I cannot help thinking that it is far more advisable to have any points of this sort settled in the Bill, so that the persons affected can see it rather than depend on utterances made in either House of Parliament.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER: I submit, my Lords, that it is a simple matter of justice that the teachers of the denominational schools should be placed on an equality with the officers of the board schools in this matter. I have had a large number of representations made to me by teachers in various parts of the country who think that their interests are in danger. We must remember who these teachers are. Many of them are men who might have been receiving a larger salary in board schools than they consented to take in voluntary schools, simply because they wished to carry out the principles and the teaching of the Church to which they belonged. If it is intended by this Bill that the teachers shall be placed on an equality with the officers of the board schools, then we ask that that should be made plain on the face of the Bill, so that there may be no discussion or dissension hereafter on this point.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am afraid it is impossible to do what is asked. It appears unnecessary to put these teachers into this paragraph at all. They have their own Government Pension Scheme, and there is no need for placing them under the local authorities' scheme. The School Board teachers are, as a matter of fact, within the provisions of this paragraph, as they are transferred officers. Voluntary school teachers, however, are not, and cannot be, under these provisions, because they are not in any sense of the word transferred officers. They remain under the managers under whom they have been already, and there is nothing in this Bill which affects their position.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 21, after 'officer' to insert 'or teachers.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

On question, Amendment negatived.

Second Schedule agreed to.

Third Schedule:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF LICHFIELD moved an Amendment with the object of placing the trustees of school buildings in the same position in relation to those school buildings as they would be in if they were owners of those buildings. The powers possessed by School Boards by this Bill were transferred to the local authorities. Amongst those powers was the power to purchase as well as to receive transfers of school buildings in accordance with the arrangements under the 23rd Clause of the Act of 1870. An arrangement under that Clause might provide for the absolute conveyance to the local authority of all the interest possessed by the managers or by any trustee for them, or for the school. Therefore a majority of two-thirds of the managers, with certain limitations, would be able under the provisions of the Act to alienate the school buildings and sell them to the authority. It was true that there were certain safeguards in the Act of 1870. First, the consent of the Board of Education was required; secondly, if there were subscribers there must be a resolution of two-thirds of the subscribers; and, thirdly, notice had to be served of the intention of the managers on any trustee who was not a manager. Certain things, however, had happened since 1870, which somewhat altered the position. The subscribers would be a varying quantity now, and as the subscribers would no longer be asked for maintenance, the number of subscribers would be reduced and their interest considerably diminished. With regard to the alienation of property in school buildings simply by a resolution of a majority of two thirds of the managers, it must be recollected that the trustees of the buildings were not always themselves managers, and although they might be notified of the fact that the managers proposed to part with the buildings, they might not be first consulted. Again, there had been an alteration in the composition of the committee of managers. There were now on the committee of management two members elected by an outside authority; they had no interest in the buildings themselves, and it would seem to be a new proposal to give those who had no beneficial interest in the property the right to act on the question of the disposal of that property. Then, the value of that property had enormously increased in the last ten years. In the county of Stafford alone more than £150,000 had been spent on building, adding to, and improving Church schools since the year 1891. That enormous increase in the value of property ought to be taken into consideration. It was a witness to the fact that those who subscribed that large amount were deeply in earnest in the work they did. He submitted that it was fair in these circumstances that the trustees should have the same privileges as the owners of property had under the Act of 1870.

Amendment moved—

"In page 22, line 13, after 'payable,' insert '(3.) The consent of the trustees of a school shall be required to any arrangement made under Section 23 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Lichfield.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The right rev. Bishop will hardly expect me to follow him in the rather minute legal arguments which he has mentioned. I am advised that under Section 23 of the Act of 1870, to which the right rev. Bishop has referred, which relates to trustees of schools, the interests of the trustees are protected in every possible way. The Board of Education have to give notice before any transfer to every trustee or owner; they have to consider objections and to give due regard to them, and no transfer can take place without the consent of the Board of Education. The Board of Education is charged with the duty of protecting private and public interests. I cannot imagine that it would be a convenient course to require the consent of every trustee of the school to transfers under the 23rd Section of the Act of 1870. I am advised, and believe, that that Act contains every provision which is really necessary and essential for the protection of the individual trustees.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendments made.

Third Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Fourth Schedule amended and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Report of the Amendments to be received on Saturday next; the Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 195.)

LONDON WATER BILL.

Referred to the Examiners.

MAIL SHIPS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read, 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Earl of Selborne.*) (No. 196.)

House adjourned at a quarter-past Twelve o'clock a.m. till half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 11th December, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

PETITIONS.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BILLS IN PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from St. Ives, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SOMALILAND EXPEDITION.

Petition from Manchester, for inquiry; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Appendix, Section 1, to the Sixty-eighth Report of the Commissioners, being for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the present system of reporting Industrial Accidents [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FISHERIES (ICHTHYOLOGICAL RESEARCH).

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed to inquire and report as to the best means by which the State or Local Authorities can assist Scientific Research as applied to problems affecting the Fisheries of Great Britain and Ireland, together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Index [by Command]: to lie upon the Table.

FISHERIES (NORTH SEA FISHERY INVESTIGATION).

Copy presented, of Reports of the British Delegates attending the International Conferences held at Stockholm, Christiana, and Copenhagen with respect to Fishery and Hydrographical Investigations in the North Sea, and Correspondence relating thereto [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Island of Lewis—Skigersta Pier.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what progress has been made with the construction of a protecting wall for the Skigersta Pier, in the parish of Barvas, Island of Lewis.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) It cannot be said that any progress has been made with the construction of this work, the County Council not having as yet come to a decision on the offer made to them by the Congested Districts Board in June 1901; but, in answer to an inquiry by that Board, the County clerk, on 11th October last, wrote to the effect that the County Finance Committee hoped to be in a position to proceed with the works before 31st December, up to which date the offer by the Board is available.

India—Fatalities in use of Plague Serum.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state how many deaths have recently occurred in the Punjab through natives having been inoculated with contaminated plague serum; and will he say how many weeks elapsed before the use of this serum was arrested, and who is responsible for its issue to the medical staff.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) Certain changes, stated to be in accordance with the recommendations of the Plague Commission, were recently made in the manufacture of plague serum in the Plague Research Laboratory, Bombay, by the Director, with the object of expediting manufacture, reducing the dose, and increasing protective efficiency. On complaints reaching the Government of the Punjab from the inoculating staff that certain bottles of the fluid thus prepared had been found to be putrid, that Government, on 1st November, directed its discontinuance, after it had been in use for exactly a month. At that date only two suspicious deaths had been reported, but subsequently to the issue of the order I regret to say that twenty-one others occurred, nineteen ensuing from the use of one particular bottle. The doctor using this bottle had offered to inoculate himself first, but the villagers accepted inoculation without this, no official pressure being employed. A thorough inquiry is being made as to the cause of the contaminated serum and the precise degree of responsibility attaching to the officers concerned, and I have requested that the result may be telegraphed to me without delay. Inoculation has now been resumed with the fluid as previously used, under special precautions as to purity. The temper of the people is reported to be excellent. The Viceroy has authorised the Punjab Government to grant compensation to the families of the sufferers.

Difference between Indian Government's Receipts and Payments as affected by Currency Rates.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state how many sovereigns, since they were made legal tender at fifteen rupees, have been paid into the Indian Government's Treasuries in respect of land revenue, customs, and other taxes; and the number of those coins paid out, during the same period, in lieu of fifteen rupees by the Indian Government for its local purchases of public works material and other stores, for salaries, interests, and other State obligations.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I regret that the information which the hon. Member desires is not available.

Indian Irrigation Commissions' Report.

MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will say when the Report of the Commission on Irrigation will be presented to the House.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) It is not possible to state when the Report of the Commission on Irrigation will be presented to the House, as it has not yet been submitted to the Government of India; but I have some reason to hope that the complete report may be in the hands of that Government before the end of February.

Indian State Railways—Communication on Passenger Trains.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether arrangements can be made for the adoption of a system of intercommunication with the guard on passenger trains of the Indian Government Railways.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I am not in a position to state what arrangements have been or can be made to secure intercommunication between passengers and the guard on State Railways, but I will make inquiry on the subject.

Khairpur Currency.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that, although the Khairpur Native State rupee is once more accepted in payment of land rent, fines, etc., the State Treasury declines to recognise it except under a depreciation of five annas; will he state whether it is proposed to give effect to the scheme for the conversion of the Khairpur currency, which was recently under consideration; and will the cost of such conversion be defrayed from the general revenues of the Khairpur State, so that the loss may not fall on the people of that State.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I am not fully informed as to the financial measures to which this Question refers, but I am aware that the attention of the Government of India is directed to the subject, and I am satisfied that they will do what is possible to secure an equitable arrangement of the matter.

Khairpur—Government Sales of Salt.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that salt which is sold by the Government of India to the Khairpur Native State, is resold to the people at a profit to the State Treasury; will he ascertain the extent of that profit; and will efforts be made to secure the sale of salt to the people of this State at a price more closely approximating that at which it is purchased from the Government.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) With regard to the first part of the Question, I must refer the hon. Member to my reply of 28th July last †; as to the second portion of it, it is not proposed to alter the arrangements by which salt in Khairpur State is sold at approximately the same price as in adjoining British districts.

Cable Rates to West Africa.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been called to the fact that the cost of cable messages from London to the Gambia is 3s. 6d. per word, to Sierra Leone is 4s. 6d. per word, to the Gold Coast 5s. 8d. per word, to Lagos 6s. 3d. per word, and to Nigeria 6s. 4d. per word, all English colonies on the West Coast of Africa; while from France to the following French colonies, also on the West Coast of Africa, viz., Senegal, Conakry, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, and French Congo, the charge is only one franc per word, although these colonies are only from 100 to 150 miles distant from the English Colonies; whether he is aware that the English cable companies are endeavouring to make arrangements with the French companies to raise their rates to these colonies; and whether he will take steps to reduce the telegraph rate to the West Coast of Africa to the level of the rate from London to Capetown.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxi., 1343.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) My hon. friend has, I think, been misinformed with regard to the rates from France to the French West African possessions. According to the information in my possession, the rates from France to the possessions specified are as follows: Senegal, 1fr. 50c. (say 1s. 2½d.); Conakry, 5fr. 51c. (say 4s. 5d.); Ivory Coast, 6fr. 11c. to 6fr. 31c. (say 4s. 11d. to 5s 1d.); Dahomey, 7fr. 61c. (say 6s. 1d.); French Congo, 8fr. 21c. (say 6s. 7d.) I am not aware that any arrangements are being made to raise the rates. As regards the rates from this country to the British West African possessions, the recent Inter-Departmental Committee on Cable Communications recommended that an attempt should be made to obtain a reduction in connection with the renewal of the Eastern Telegraph Company's landing rights at Porthcurno, and this recommendation will in due course be considered by His Majesty's Government.

Australian Mails.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: To ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been drawn to the delays in the transmission of the Australian mails from Naples to London, per Orient line, caused by their transport from the vessels and despatch by slow trains to London; whether he is aware that the last mails per Orient steamer from Sydney arrived at Naples on Thursday and were not delivered until late on Monday afternoon in London, and that if these mails had been carried on in the Orient steamer to Marseilles they would have been delivered in London by first post on Monday, beside saving the cost of transit through Italy; and whether he will take steps to remedy the alleged grievance.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain*): The only instance in which there has recently been delay in the delivery of mails from Australia conveyed to Naples is that specified by the hon. Member. The mail landed at Naples on the 28th of November ought in the ordinary course to have reached London at 7 p.m. on the 30th, and it would not have arrived before that evening if it had been carried on by the Orient packet to Marseilles. As a matter of fact the mail did not arrive until the afternoon of the 1st instant; but I have no reason to believe that the delay, respecting which I had already instituted inquiry, was due to other than accidental causes. I do not think it would be expedient to alter the existing arrangements, the Naples route being as a general rule the more favourable of the two.

Armagh Postmastership.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Postmaster General whether he can state if it is proposed to fill the vacant postmastership of Armagh by transfer from England, or whether the appointment will be conferred upon a postal official acquainted with Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have not yet considered the list of candidates for the postmastership of Armagh, and I cannot therefore say who is likely to prove the best qualified.

London Central Telegraph Office Staff.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): To ask the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that an order has been issued recently in the Central Telegraph Office, London, withdrawing certain privileges relating to Saturday modifications of duty that have been in existence many years; that the Controller, in his notice to the staff, expressed the hope that the new arrangement would give in the aggregate as much time to the staff as formerly; and that a telegraphist submitted a statement showing he had suffered under the alterations, and was told that if he did not like it he could leave the service; and whether it is intended that a member of the staff submitting a statement concerning the loss of one of his emoluments should be thus treated by his superior officer.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Certain extremely irregular arrangements, which have prevailed in the Central Telegraph Office for some time without the knowledge of the Postmaster General, were recently stopped by my directions. I understand that the statement put forward by one of the staff was not a fair representation of the circumstances, and the Controller, after pointing this out to him, observed that if he was still dissatisfied with the conditions of his service he was at liberty to leave. There is nothing calling for my intervention in this matter of discipline at the present stage. There was no question of loss of any proper emolument.

South African War—Postal Service Volunteers.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Postmaster General, in view of the fact that members of the Post Office who volunteered for South Africa were told that they would receive the difference between their salaries and the cost of substitution, and that no mention was made that the Military pay would be taken into consideration, whether he is aware that a telegraphist named Priest, of the Central Office, London, has been informed that as he received the pay of a Yeoman the question of his Post Office arrears of salary cannot be taken into account; and whether he will state why Priest has been treated differently to other postal officials who served with the Yeomanry by having his Army pay taken into consideration.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. It is not the fact that, when unmarried Post Office servants joining the Colours for service in South Africa were told that they would receive the difference between their salaries and the cost of substitution, no mention was made that the Military pay would be taken into consideration. On the contrary, they were informed that payment of such difference was subject to the condition that the amount of the difference, together with their Military emoluments, should not exceed the amount of the civil pay. In Priest's case this condition was not fulfilled.

Post Office Sorting Clerks, Sorters, and Telegraphists—Pay, &c.

MR. JACOBY (Derbyshire, Mid): To ask the Postmaster General whether he will issue a Comparative Return showing the number of sorting clerks, sorters, and telegraphists receiving the maximum pay of their class, with particulars of their service in London and all the offices scheduled in Class A.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Such a Return (so far as the provincial offices are concerned) was given in 1899, and it appears to me that no useful purpose would be served by reproducing it now. I am therefore not prepared to assent to it.

South Africa—Veterinary Examination of Cattle given to Repatriated Boers.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in view of the facts that in the case of loans to the Boers two-thirds of such loans are made in kind, will he consider the expediency of arranging for oxen and mules which are thus handed over to the farmers to be subjected to a veterinary examination before they pass out of the hands of the Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) The hon. Gentleman is referred to the answer given to him on the 6th November by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.†

Close and Patent Rolls—Errors in Welsh Spelling.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that the Calendar of Close Rolls, Edward III., 1339–1341, and the Calendar of Patent Rolls, Henry VI., 1422–1429, contain numerous mistakes in Welsh personal and place names, he will give instructions that in future such calendars of the Public Records as are issued, and contain entries of Welsh personal or place names, should be submitted to a competent Welsh scholar before publication.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) I am informed that the errors referred to are not numerous or important, and that the percentage of errors is not higher in Welsh names than in English or foreign names. While the editors of the calendars are always glad to receive the help of competent scholars and to give careful consideration to any suggestions, it is not considered desirable to adopt the course proposed, which would cause great delay in the progress of the calendars, and which would necessitate similar action in the case of all other proper names.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxiv., 265.

Uxbridge Rural District Council—Local Loans.

SIR FREDERICK DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the sum of nearly £40,000 was raised and has been spent on drainage works in the parish of Ruislip (including Northwood) by the Uxbridge Rural District Council, under the sanction of the Local Government Board; whether he has received any official reports to the effect that the Uxbridge Rural District Council have paid the contractors in full before the dates named in the contracts, and that variations inconsistent with the nature of the approved scheme have been made without the consent of the Local Government Board; and whether he will now reconsider the necessity of holding a local inquiry upon the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Loans amounting to £39,000 have been sanctioned by the Local Government Board for the purposes of sewerage and sewage disposal in the parish referred to. I have not received any official reports to the effect that the contractors were paid in full before the dates named in the contracts, but I understand that there have been departures from the approved scheme. I am in communication with the Rural District Council on the subject, but it does not at present appear to me to be necessary that there should be a further local inquiry in this case.

Uganda—Government Concessions.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give a full statement of the concessions granted to either persons or companies in Uganda.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) Returns on the matter of concessions have already been called for but have not so far been received. His Majesty's Government are not aware of any concessions being granted either to persons or companies in Uganda, except in the case of the East Africa Syndicate, who have been granted by His Majesty's Commissioner an exclusive permit for one year, with power to extend permit for an additional period of six months subject to approval of His Majesty's Commissioner, to prospect for precious stones and minerals over a tract of country 100 square miles in extent, with its centre at Butiaba Station in the province of Unyoro. As regards the East Africa Protectorate a concession for working certain pearl fisheries off the coast of the Protectorate has been granted to Mr. Rule for a period of ten years. The East Africa Syndicate have been granted certain prospecting rights for minerals under the mining regulations. Besides these certain small concessions have been granted locally for the development of Mombasa and other districts.

Criminal Law—Compensation to Acquitted Persons—Case of Mr. R. M. Newton.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) To ask Mr. Attorney General whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Mr R. M. Newton, of Manchester, who was arrested and put in prison and tried, for alleged extensive fraud, at the Old Bailey, although, at a previous trial of the same case at the Mansion House, Alderman Ritchie dismissed the charge against him without calling upon the defence; and whether, having regard to the remarks of the Judge regarding the trial and this man's imprisonment, the age of Mr. Newton, and his previous character, he will consider his claim for compensation.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask Mr. Attorney General, if he will consider the advisability of forwarding papers, in the case of Mr. R. M. Newton, of Manchester, who, in connection with the recent trial for alleged extensive frauds, was dismissed by the magistrate before offering his defence, yet was indicted at the Old Bailey, and was again dismissed without being called upon for his defence, to the Treasury, with a view to some compensation being made to him.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) It is only under very special circumstances that the Treasury would be justified in awarding compensation in respect of a prosecution which has resulted in an acquittal. If such a practice became common it is obvious that it would unduly hamper the Director of Public Prosecutions in the discharge of his very arduous and responsible functions, which involve the duty of prosecuting in what appear to him to be proper cases, and might tend to prevent due investigation. The question of compensation rests not with me but with the Treasury. I ought, however, perhaps to add that on the materials before me I should not be prepared to advise the Treasury to make the present case an exception to the general rule.

Shandangan Petty Sessions—Lynch v. Howard.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the case of Lynch v. Howard at Shandangan Petty Sessions, on 18th November last, where, according to evidence, the defendant's solicitor wrote a letter and on the eve of sessions sent a telegram to the clerk of sessions to have Mr. John Barrett, J.P., Macroon, to attend for this particular case; and whether he will state on what grounds the clerk of sessions received instructions from the defendant's solicitor to summon certain magistrates.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The clerk of petty sessions was instructed by the resident magistrate to notify the magistrates of the district to attend on the 18th November to adjudicate in the case mentioned. The clerk, however, omitted to communicate with Mr. Barrett, who, although a justice for the district, had never previously attended these petty sessions. But, at the request of defendant's solicitor, he telegraphed to Mr. Barrett to attend on the day preceding the hearing.

Scarva (Down) Police Barracks.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why the opinion of the local justices of the peace as to the necessity for re-establishing the police barracks at Scarva, County Down, has been disregarded; and whether it is proposed to make further inquiry into the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Careful consideration was given to the views of the local justices. In the circumstances, it is not proposed to make further inquiry in the matter.

Royal Artillery—Promotions of Lieutenant-Colonels

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will take steps to place the prospects of a lieutenant-colonel of Royal Artillery obtaining rank and employment as a full colonel on a level with those of a lieutenant-colonel of infantry.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Various questions connected with the promotion of lieutenant-colonels are at present under consideration, and I am not, therefore, in a position to make any statement on the subject alluded to.

Militia Candidates for the Line—Competitive Examinations.

MR. LLEWELLYN (Somersetshire, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to revert to a competitive examination, in military subjects only, in the case of candidates for the Line from the Militia, as recommended by the recent Committee appointed to consider the education and training of officers of the army, referred to in Appendix 13, paragraph 5, of their Report; and, if so, when such change will be carried out.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I propose shortly to make a statement on the future system of examination of Militia officers prior to their entry into the regular forces. The examination in March next will be under existing regulations.

Mounted Infantry.

MR. JOHN HOWARD (Middlesex, Tottenham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the companies forming the mounted infantry regiments now returning from South Africa are to rejoin the infantry battalions they originally belonged to, or whether they are to be retained as permanent mounted infantry regiments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The hon. Member is requested kindly to refer to a reply given to a Question put on Wednesday, 10th December, by the hon. Member for the Heywood Division of Lancashire.†

Militia Officers' Outfit Allowances.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the items of special expenditure incurred by Militia officers in South Africa with units other than their own that necessitated the £100 allowance; and if he will explain why it was refused to officers going to the front with their own corps.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This allowance was given to cover the expense of a different uniform and outfit which it was represented to the War Office was incurred by officers going to the front with corps other than their own. Militia officers proceeding with their own units wore the uniform of their corps.

Reserve Officers' Promotion.

DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many Reserve officers have been promoted after being called to army service in May, 1900; and whether these officers were graded in the higher rank in the Army List and received the pay of the higher rank while serving.

DR. SHIPMAN: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state why some Reserve officers, promoted after three months service, do, and others, promoted after three years service, do not receive the pay of the rank to which they have been promoted, and who appear in the Army List as serving in the higher rank.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) In reply to these Questions, 195 were so promoted up to the 31st October, 1902. These officers were promoted in the Reserve, but, in the case of some few who continued in employment after promotion, it has not been found possible to utilise their services in the higher grade conferred, as the establishment did not permit it. Those promoted will receive the pay of their rank except those in receipt of consolidated pay and departmental officers, whose pay is regulated by their grade in such department, and not by the rank of the officers.

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Training Ships.—Roman Catholic Seamen from the "Arethusa" and "Chichester."

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state how many Roman Catholic boys and how many of all other denominations have been received into the Royal Navy during the last twelve months from the "Arethusa" and "Chichester" training ships.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The Admiralty have no information with regard to the points referred to in the hon. Member's Question. It is possible that he may be able to obtain the particulars from the "Arethusa" and "Chichester."

Russian Concession at Tientsin.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state what is the present position of affairs in reference to the Russian concession at Tientsin; whether the Russian Government are in occupation of any territory near the railway station or goods yard; whether the private owners are in occupation of the mining companies' yard, of the yards and junk wharves of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, and Jardine, and W. Forbes, as well as of the light tramway line, and who is in occupation of the military college; and will he state what steps are being taken to clear up the situation.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The Russian Government do not propose that the property of foreign owners should be included in their concession. With regard to the ownership of the land claimed by the railway included in the Russian concession, arbitration is proceeding. The goods yard was, we understand, entirely evacuated by the Russians in July, 1901, but we have no further information as to that part of the right hon. Baronet's Question. The private owners are in occupation of the mining companies' yard, of the yard and junk wharves of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, Jardine, and W. Forbes. The light tramway was bought out by the German Expeditionary Force, and is used by the German military authorities for transport, stores, &c. The Russian authorities are in occupation of the Military College. In answer to the last Question, His Majesty's Government await the result of the arbitration.

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† See page 653.

South Africa — Recruiting of Native Labour from Central Africa and Uganda.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if there are any restrictions placed by His Majesty's Government upon the emigration of natives from the British Central African Protectorate and Uganda to the new South African Colonies; and, if so, if the Government will take steps to remove these restrictions.

LORD CRANBORNE: Under the regulations of British Central Africa and Uganda no recruiting of labour may take place without the permission of His Majesty's Commissioner. There are other provisions in the labour regulations enacted for the protection of the natives. Hitherto, labour recruiting in these Protectorates for South Africa has not been permitted, but the subject is now under consideration.

British Cemeteries in the Ionian States.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, by the treaty of 29th March, 1864, between Great Britain, France, Russia, and Greece, whereby the Ionian Islands were ceded to Greece, and by the vote of the Ionian Assembly forming one of the bases of that treaty, the right of property in the English cemeteries in the Ionian States was confirmed to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty; whether the Greek authorities now propose to lease, or have leased, the English cemetery in Corfu to a Franco-Belgian company for the purpose of erecting therein a casino; whether the consent of His Majesty's Government has been asked for and obtained to this transaction; and what steps His Majesty's Government propose to take to prevent the desecration of the graves of the distinguished British civil and military officers and other British subjects buried in this cemetery.

LORD CRANBORNE: With regard to the first part of the Question, it is the case that the right of property in the English cemeteries in the Ionian States was confirmed to Her Majesty's Government by the vote of the Ionian Assembly of October 12th–19th, 1863, which formed one of the bases of the Treaty of March 29th, 1864. Negotiations were, however, opened in 1891 for the transfer of the old cemeteries to the Greek authorities. No final arrangement has been arrived at, but His Majesty's Government have been careful to signify that, in the event of such a transfer, proper precautions must be taken to prevent the desecration of the cemetery. Enquiry will be made, and the whole subject will, if necessary, be reconsidered before any further proceedings are taken to complete the transfer.

Venezuela—Anglo-German Naval Action.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether there is anything new from Venezuela.

LORD CRANBORNE: Official information has been received, through diplomatic and naval channels, to the following effect:—Three Venezuelan vessels were yesterday seized by armed boats from British and German men-of-war at La Guaira, and a fourth was disabled without resistance. A Venezuelan gunboat, the "Bolivar," was also seized at Port of Spain. The two prizes taken by the German commodore have been sunk. It was reported yesterday in Caracas that all German and British subjects were being arrested. Steps were at once taken by the United States Minister, to whose care British interests have been confided, to verify the facts. The release of all British and German subjects has been demanded, but, so far as we are aware, this demand has not yet been complied with. It was reported that the British Consul at Caracas has been arrested, but it is not yet known whether such is the case. The British Vice-Consul at La Guaira, with some women and children, were taken on board British men-of-war during the night of the 9th-10th. It is stated that President Castro is holding the British and German subjects as hostages. Up to the date of the last information, which appears to have left La Guaira last evening, all British subjects, though arrested, were so far unharmed.

Tunbridge Wells Telephones.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tonbridge): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he has yet come to any decision as to whether he will give his assent to the proposed sale of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation telephone undertaking to the National Telephone Company; and, if not, whether he can state the cause of the delay.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): After carefully considering the important questions of principle affecting the telephone system of the United Kingdom involved in the application of the Corporation of Tunbridge Wells, I decided that I could not give my assent to the proposed sale except on certain conditions which are necessary for the maintenance of the policy approved by Parliament in the Telegraph Act, 1899. The licence held by the Corporation imposed on the conduct of their telephone undertaking certain important obligations which do not apply generally to the licensed business of the National Telephone Company. The most important of these obligations are the following:—

1. That the charges for the Exchange service shall be maintained within certain specified limits.

2. That no favour or preference shall be shown in the charges made to any subscribers, and that no subscriber shall, as a condition of service, be required to grant wayleaves except for the connection of his own premises with an Exchange.

3. That the construction of all plant shall be subject to the sanction and approval of the Postmaster General.

4. That the subscribers in other areas to Exchanges of the Postmaster General, and of his other licencees besides the National Telephone Company, shall have the right to free intercommunication over the trunk wire system, without the imposition of "terminal fees" with the subscribers to the Corporation system, and that subscribers to a Post Office system in the same area shall have the right of intercommunication on terms to be settled by arbitration, if necessary.

The National Telephone Company lately accepted as a condition of their licence in respect of the Tunbridge Wells area conditions 1 and 2, and thereby secured, under the operation of Section 3 of the Telegraph Act 1899, as a result of the establishment of the municipal telephone system, an extension of the period of their licence for the Tunbridge Wells area from the 31st December, 1911, to the 30th April, 1925, the date of termination of the Corporation licence. Under these circumstances I wrote to the Company on the 22nd November that I could not give my assent to the proposed sale unless they further accepted as applying in future to the whole of their system in the area the other obligations now attaching to the Corporation system, in order that all telephone business in the area might in future be conducted in accordance with the principles approved by Parliament; and I make a further very important condition. In permitting the extension of the Company's licence in local areas where municipal competition might be established, Parliament intended to place the competing systems on an equality, but it did not contemplate the enjoyment of this advantage without competition. I therefore thought it necessary to secure for the Postmaster General the right to terminate the Company's extended local licence on the 31st December, 1911, the original date of termination specified in their general licence. The Corporation licence, in order to provide for the continuance of the telephone service by the Post Office on its termination, gave the Postmaster General the right to purchase such of their plant as might, on the expiration of the Corporation's licence, be useful for Post Office purposes, on what are commonly known as "tramway terms," that is at its fair market value as plant in use. I have extended this condition to the whole plant of the National Telephone Company existing in the Tunbridge Wells area in 1911. These conditions, coupled with the terms as to rates of subscription, &c., contained in the agreement between the Corporation and the Company, secure all the advantages contemplated by Parliament in sanctioning municipal competition as affecting both existing and future subscribers, and the development of the general telephone system, and I am glad to be able to state that I have to-day received from the National Telephone Company an assurance that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, and looking at the matter not from the point of view of Tunbridge Wells alone, but from the broader standpoint as it affects the position of the Post Office and the Company in the country generally, they are prepared to accept these conditions.

Parcel Post to Brazil.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Postmaster General if, in view of the fact that there is no parcel post between this country and Brazil, and the importance of the trade with that country, he will endeavour to secure an extension of the parcel post system of that country.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: A parcel post with Brazil was established through the agency of the Portuguese Post Office on the 1st January, 1901. The Brazilian Post Office has during many years rejected the proposals of the British Post Office for the establishment of a direct parcel post; but fresh negotiations on this subject were commenced last year, and are still proceeding.

Rates on London Water Companies' Reservoirs.

SIR FREDERICK DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the desirability of bringing in a Bill next session to exclude the reservoirs of Water Companies from the reduction in rateable value applicable to agricultural ponds.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R.,Thirsk): The amendment of the law suggested by my hon. friend, who has taken so much interest in this matter, is one with which my right hon. friend has sympathy; but I cannot give any pledge as to the introduction of legislation next session for the purpose.

Free Rod Fishing on the Orkney Foreshores.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of the Treasury, as representing the Woods and Forests Commissioners, if he can now state when the regulations will be issued under which the rights of the Orkney public to free fair rod fishing on the foreshores will be preserved.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HAYES FISHER, Fulham): I understand this Question to relate to the right to fish for salmon and sea trout on the shores of the Islands of Hoy, Fara, and Ryaa Little. The issue of regulations is postponed until an option of purchase of the right of fishing, now held by the proprietor of the Islands is exercised or allowed to lapse. The question of purchase has to be settled by Martinmas, 1903. Meanwhile the Commissioners of Woods understand that persons desiring to fish with rod have found no difficulty in getting leave from the proprietor who rents the right from the Crown.

Gort Resident Magistrate.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what grounds notice was served on Captain Pery, R.M., Gort, to remove him from Gort during the past twelve months; for what reasons did he cease to be resident magistrate in Belmullet; and when is it proposed to transfer him from Gort.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): It is not and has not been proposed to transfer Captain Pery from Gort; consequently no such notice has been served upon him. He was transferred from Belmullet twelve years ago to satisfy the requirements of the public service.

Longford Royal Canal.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the drowning of two men last week at Longford, owing to the unprotected state of the Royal Canal; will he state how many persons have been drowned in the same portion of the canal during the last ten years; and whether he will consider the advisability of instituting a prosecution against the persons responsible for its present condition.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir; the Urban District Council has directed attention to this matter. The question whether it is practicable for the Government to take action is now engaging consideration, Seven persons have been drowned in the canal at this point during the past ten years.

Clonmel Magistracy and Police.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the religious persuasions of the county inspector, district inspector, head constable, and resident magistrate in Clonmel, the capital of Tipperary; how many Roman Catholic magistrates have been appointed by the present lieutenant of the county; and whether any steps will be taken to equalise the number of Roman Catholics and Protestants so employed.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The officials referred to in the first part of the Question are Protestants. Of the remainder of the police force at Clonmel, twenty-three are Roman Catholics and seven Protestants. The religious proportions of the entire force in this Riding of Tipperary, according to the latest returns, are — Roman Catholics, 234; Protestants, 53. The present lieutenant of the county has appointed nine Justices of the Peace in the Clonmel district, of whom five are Roman Catholics. He will be happy to consider the names of any other eligible gentlemen of this persuasion that may be submitted to him.

Convict Lynchehann's Escape.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many persons have been arrested in Ireland during the last three months on the supposition that they were the escaped convict Lynchehann; what compensation has been paid to the persons so arrested and detained; and whether further instructions will be issued to the Royal Irish Constabulary in this case.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Two persons were arrested on suspicion. No compensation has been paid to them. The value of instructions given to the police in such cases would be discounted if announced beforehand.

Mr. TULLY: Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to provide Ireland with a proper detective force?

[No answer was returned.]

Ardagh Cathedral.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Board of Works have received a complaint from the Rev. Canon O'Farrell, Ardagh, County Longford, as to the state of the ruins of St. Mels Cathedral at Ardagh; and whether he can state what steps will be taken to preserve these ancient monuments.

Mr. HAYES FISHER: Communications on the subject have been received from Canon O'Farrell, but the ruins are not vested in the Commissioners of Public Works, nor can they take any action towards vesting them except at the request of the owner. The ownership is vested in the representative Church body.

Hill-street (Roscommon) Sub-postmaster.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he can state on what grounds was Mr. John Beirne removed from the office of sub-postmaster at Hillstreet, County Roscommon, after 23 years service; and whether any refund has been made to Mr. Beirne for stamps supplied by him during the last month of the tenure of office at his own expense.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Mr. Beirne was removed from office because he had no suitable house in which to carry on Post Office business and is not likely to be able to provide one. So far as is known no payment is due to him from the Post Office.

Examination for Women Clerks in the Dublin Post Office.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he can state what period has elapsed since the last examinations were held in Dublin for women clerkships in the General Post Office; when it is proposed to hold a further examination; and what notice will be given to the candidates who are now preparing for it.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The last examination held at Dublin for the situation of women clerks in the General Post Office took place in October, 1901. It cannot at present be stated when it will be necessary to hold another examination, but due notice thereof will be given by the Civil Service Commissioners.

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION—PERSONAL EXPLANATION (MR. A. J. BALFOUR).

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I should like to say a word of personal explanation. On December 5th I answered an unstarred Question of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who, I am very sorry to see, is not in his place. I ought to have given him private notice as to the purport of my answer. But the hon. Member asked me whether the Secretary to the Board of Trade in 1881 had in a memorandum stated that it had been decided by the highest legal authority that to impose a countervailing duty in order to neutralise a foreign bounty on sugar would be contrary to the most-favoured-nation clause in existing commercial treaties, and whether the legal authority thus referred to was that of the law officers of the Crown. In answer to that I said that "we have no record of any opinion by the law officers given at that time upon the subject." I now find on further investigation that that answer was incorrect. I have no doubt myself that Lord Farrer was referring to the law officers as the highest legal authority, and it is the fact that there is on record an opinion of the law officers in 1880 which is in accordance with Lord Farrer's statement.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Can we have that opinion?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No. The matter came before the House of Commons Committee sitting on the sugar question, and the opinion of the law officers was shown in confidence to the Committee. The substance of it, I imagine, can be discovered from the cross-examination pursued; but it was felt by the Foreign Office at the time—and quite rightly felt—that it would be contrary to all precedent and would be most inconvenient if the *ipsissima verba* of the law officers' opinion should be made a matter of public statement and public discussion. But it is the fact that Lord Farrer has accurately stated the general tenor of the law officers' opinion of that day.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): In view of this fact, will the right hon. Gentleman reconsider his objections to give a further opportunity of discussing this most important question?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not see the relevance between a discussion of the question as it is and the opinion given at that time.

MR. LOUGH: It shows that the policy you are pursuing will be in contravention of the other commercial treaties which exist. Besides, it raises a large question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not quite prepared to admit the hon. Member's contention.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

(2.30.) SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Can the Prime Minister forecast the probabilities in regard to the Education Bill, and the business generally for next week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The main business of the remaining part of the session is the consideration of the Lords' Amendments to the Education Bill, which may or may not occupy discussion in this House. That, of course, I cannot tell. Besides that, the House has really only to finish the business now before it—the Uganda Railway Bill, the Osborne Estate Bill, and the Militia and Yeomanry Bill, about which an arrangement generally agreeable on both sides has been come to. There is no possibility that this House will be able to discuss the Lords' Amendments before Tuesday. No doubt the Bill will be down then, and I shall propose to devote the whole, or the main part, of Tuesday to dealing with them. On Friday of this week the business will be the Irish Local Government Bill, and on Monday the remaining stages of the Bills I have just named.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Expiring Laws Continuance Bill; Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland) Bill, without Amendment.

UGANDA RAILWAY [GRANT]—(REPORT).

Resolution reported—"That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of a further sum not exceeding £600,000 for the purposes of the Uganda Railway."

(2.35.) MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he would like at the outset of this discussion to say a few words upon this Vote. It was perfectly true that the time had passed when criticism could remedy anything that had happened already. The money had been spent. The extravagance was past, and some one might say that there was no great use of crying over spilt milk. But if those who spilt the milk were allowed to do so without having any observations addressed to them on their conduct, things would not be better, and might be worse. They have now had for the second or third time an extraordinary instance of miscalculation on the part of a Government Department. He did not think there had been for years past anything to parallel the want of wisdom and foresight in regard to this railway. The estimate had been fallacious. Every time that Ministers had come and asked for further expenditure they had apologised for what had happened, and promised that things would be better, and yet, in a year or eighteen months, a fresh demand had been made. The first estimate was £3,000,000. They had now spent, including the estimate which they were asked to vote that day, £5,550,000, and the railway was being conducted at a very heavy annual loss. What excuses were being made for that extraordinary miscalculation? The first was, as he gathered from what was said by the Under Secretary, that the expense incurred in making the part of the railway near the coast, over very level and dry ground, led those who were controlling the works to form an inadequate estimate of the rest of the line, because they argued from what was being spent on that part of the line, that the total expenditure would be somewhere within their original limits. That was an extraordinary miscalculation for anyone who knew anything of tropical countries to make. It was not merely because the coast area for about 270 miles inland was comparatively level, but also because it was comparatively dry. But everyone who knew the tropics knew that it was when they reached the highlands of the interior that the rainfall became heavy, and the first thing that should have been determined was the rainfall to be expected in the interior. The country in the interior, as the House knew, rose to a height of eight or nine thousand feet, and the great tropical rains came up from the Indian Ocean, impinged against these mountains, and fell. These torrential rains had proved ever so much more severe than was expected, and to say that the experience gained near the coast was taken as an evidence of what would happen afterwards, was to show an extraordinary want of knowledge and foresight. They were also told by the Under Secretary that the weather experienced was most exceptional. He supposed no Member of the House had ever travelled in any country without having been told the weather was exceptional. This country had been in our hands for ten or twelve years, and the Government had had admirable opportunities of surveying it and making all these preliminary inquiries. It did seem perfectly extraordinary that they should have been taken by surprise in this way. The Under Secretary had said that they did not know the country, but why did not they know it, and why did they not have a proper survey? Could anything be imagined more short-sighted than to enter upon an undertaking which, on the most hopeful hypothesis, was bound to be most costly, without having a proper survey? The tribes which had rendered a large part of the territory unsafe had practically disappeared, and it would have been perfectly possible to carry out a complete survey from the shore of the lake all the way down to the coast. Why was not that done? It might have taken a little time; the commencement of the railway might have been delayed a year; but how much better it would have been in the long run to spend that time in preparing a survey than to embark on an undertaking of this kind with imperfect knowledge. He could not understand how, above all things, one fundamental principle had not forced itself upon the minds of those who were responsible. Why not have given the work out by contract? The Under Secretary said that he doubted whether any contractor would have undertaken such an uncertain work. Did he try? Was it properly advertised? Was every reasonable effort made to get a contractor to come in and offer? Was everything done that could have been done to relieve the Foreign Office of responsibilities, and troubles, and uncertainties connected with such a work, and to put it into the hands of those whose business experience and professional skill enabled them properly to deal with it? If it were the case that the knowledge was so imperfect, it was surely all the more reason why time should have been spent in surveying. He could not understand why, if the Foreign Office had to do the work itself, it should have entered upon it without the fullest knowledge of all the obstacles that had to be encountered. He could not understand how a Department like the Foreign Office should be considered capable of turning itself into the business of a contractor and engineer and undertake a work of this character.

They had to think of the future. They had been told already that there was a heavy annual loss in working the line. Of course that was to be expected. The Under Secretary pleaded that we were saving something in the conveyance of stores. No doubt we were, but we were not saving anything which could be represented as a large reduction of the very heavy loss that was being experienced. What prospect was there for the future? It was said in the debate two or three days ago that we did not go to Uganda for commercial objects. That, no doubt, was perfectly true. He would not go into the general reasons as to why Uganda was taken, and what sort of dominion it was likely to prove. But let him say that he could not accept the rosy views which the Under Secretary was bound to present to them. Anyone sitting on the Treasury Bench was bound to be an optimist. But was there really any reason to expect a considerable commercial development within any time that we could foresee of such a country as Uganda and the country between the Great Lake and the sea? It was quite true that Uganda—and the same could not be said of most of the country towards the sea—that Uganda proper, and to some extent the countries immediately surrounding it and stretching west, were naturally rich countries. They were fertile, were not indeed healthy, but were capable of being rendered more healthy, and they could produce a great variety of tropical produce. But apart from the difficulty of transporting these tropical products, there was one real and underlying difficulty which applied to all these tropical territories, and which those who had not been in the tropics and had not seen the native on his native steppe, very imperfectly realised. That was the difficulty of labour. The native did not want to work. Why should he work? With a very little trouble he could produce what he wanted and live contented. People in these matters were rather misled by the example of India, where they had had civilisation for thousands of years, and the people had contracted habits of steady industry. There the people were always at work, and they were able to pay for our commodities; the population was increasing fast, and there was a porportionate increase in their exports and in their demand for imports. But in Uganda we had nothing of the kind. We had a comparatively thinly populated district, and the people led an easy happy-go-lucky life. They did not want to work; they had not the habit of working. They did not want our commodities; they were satisfied with what they had got. No doubt these things would change. The solvent and assimilating influences of civilisation would in the course of a century or two completely change the character of these people, and that civilisation which we saw in the Strand would be found in Uganda. It would not be so interesting a world, but he supposed things would be so. But these things belonged to the future. The prospects of producing in Uganda sufficient to create an export trade, the prospects of a market to create an import trade, lay in the comparatively distant future. He knew that high authorities like Sir Harry Johnston entertained a high opinion of the country. He did not deny the country would improve, but would it improve itself enough for us to see our way to make this line a paying concern, and actually, as in a burst of optimism the noble Lord assured them, pay for the loan within 15 or 20 years which we were now making for the purpose of this railway.

*The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord Cranborne, Rochester): I did not say that was my opinion, but the opinion of very much better judges than myself, and I quoted Sir Harry Johnston and Sir George Goldie.

Mr. BRYCE said he was glad to see that the Foreign Office contained a man who viewed with critical scepticism these optimistic views. It was very unfortunate that we should be making all these loans; we were complicating and confusing our finance by the different colonial loans for different purposes. They disturbed the general position of the country, and people did not realise the various liabilities into which they were being led by these steps. He could not see that they could refuse this money. It was quite true, if anything was to be made of the country, they must have railways and steamboats. He would not go further into these matters. He believed the Member for Cleveland, who had been in the country, would be able to tell them something more about the causes of delay and the making of provisional lines. But he did think that without refusing to vote the money, it was their duty to have a discussion, and by debate to mark their sense of the mistakes that had been committed, and to endeavour to convey to the Foreign Office that it must not in the future undertake work of which its imperfect knowledge and defective experience render it, with all the talent it possesses for its own proper work, entirely incompetent.

(2.52) Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea, District) said he entirely agreed with many of the observations which had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman, but he did not think that he had adequately expressed the opinion of some Members on that side of the House with regard to this railway undertaking. He did not look upon it, as the right hon. Gentleman apparently did, as one which we were forced reluctantly to carry out because we had taken the Uganda Protectorate.

Mr. BRYCE: I did not say anything of the kind. I merely said I would not discuss the question of the Protectorate.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES said he was sorry if he misunderstood the right hon. Gentleman, but he certainly thought he spoke as if this country were, on that ground, committed to the railway. Personally, he approached the question from the point of view that these railway lines were a necessary accompaniment of our general policy. If we were going to extend our Empire we must have these railroads in order to develop the extensions. He did not think any excuse was needed for a further debate on this Resolution; indeed it was necessitated by the statement made by the noble Lord on Tuesday night. Memories of hon. Members in regard to these matters were short, and he might, therefore, be forgiven if he reminded them what the position was in 1900 in regard to this scheme. The original undertaking commenced in 1893. First there was a survey for the line, and work was actually commenced under the auspices of the Foreign Office in 1895. In 1900 a very large supplementary grant was asked for, and a Bill had to be brought in in that year. There was nothing at all in the statement made by the Minister in charge of that Bill, the predecessor of the noble Lord and the present Secretary of State for War, which indicated that there was to be any further request for money beyond the mere assertion that, in winding up a large undertaking of that kind, it was quite possible that some small additional charges would have to be provided for. He was under the impression that at that time a true estimate of the total cost had to be made—such an estimate as people in private life would have been justified in expecting to be prepared by the skilful and careful men in the employment of the Government. It was not until last session, however, when they were told that the railway was approaching completion, that a hint was given that so large a sum as £600,000 more would be required. What did the noble Lord say on the preceding Tuesday night? He first stated that he had to make the demand owing partly to causes over which the Government had no control, and partly, as he frankly admitted, to mistakes which ought not to have occurred. Of course, he was prepared to agree that the work of constructing a new railway in a country not well known was an adventurous undertaking. But he found in the noble Lord's memorandum no statement of circumstances which men of skill and knowledge might not have been forewarned about. Then with regard to the admitted mistakes, it seemed to him that they ought not to allow that occasion to pass without inquiring what mistakes were made and by whom, and what had been done in regard to the persons making them. He had had considerable experience in arbitrating on disputes affecting undertakings of this nature, and he had seen that private employers were vigilant enough to deal properly with engineers and others in their service who were guilty of mistakes which landed them in losses. Had this Committee of the Foreign Office been as vigilant in dealing with those who made the mistakes, which the noble Lord admitted had been made? The noble Lord told them on Tuesday that there was not in 1900, five years after the undertaking had been commenced, and when over 300 miles of the line had been made, a complete and detailed survey by means of which the quantities could be made out. Why did not the predecessor of the noble Lord at the Foreign Office tell the House of Commons that that was the case? He could quite understand that the first survey, made in 1893, might have been very hasty, and not very carefully thought out. It was not such a survey as would be made for similar undertakings in civilised countries. There was bound to be some vagueness in it, but after 300 miles of the railway had been made it was difficult to understand how it was that the Committee of the Foreign Office allowed the then Under Secretary to come to the House for a very large Grant without telling it frankly that the surveys had not been completed in the ordinary engineering sense. Why, he would also like to know, was an estimate based upon such imperfect material placed upon the Table of the House of Commons on that occasion? They were entitled, he thought, to ask the noble Lord to seriously consider whether this Foreign Office Committee had performed its work properly. The notion that a Committee sitting in London could make a railway in Uganda in a way in which a railway ought to be made, on purely businesslike considerations, was one open to considerable criticism, but he would not go into it at that moment; he would content himself with pointing out that among the representatives of industrial constituencies, in which the very large and important concerns were carried on, there was a growing feeling of uneasiness as to the way in which our public offices were doing their practical work.

The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen had referred to the continual under-estimating, or, as it might more properly be called, mis-estimating, in the constructing of the railway. They now found, with regard to this undertaking, that the public officials employed by the Government had committed mistakes, which, if committed by the employees of an ordinary employer, would have been met with vigilance, and probably with severity. In the Paper which had been somewhat belatedly laid upon the Table of the House on Tuesday, he found miscalculations which were wholly unwarranted, and which were certainly not excused by anything appearing in that document. For instance, formations and earthworks were estimated in 1900 at £844,607, and were now estimated at £1,152,403. If a blunder of that kind had been committed with regard to only 250 miles of railway by an engineer employed by any ordinary firm, would there not have been at least considerable disturbance in the affairs of the firm? No excuse had been given with reference to that. The rains might have something to do with it, but surely the rains ought to have been taken into account in 1900. If the engineers had taken the trouble to find out from skilled persons what was likely to happen, the rains would have been provided for. Again, the permanent way was estimated at £1,379,000; now it had risen to £1,453,000. He should like to know why that was. Surely the engineers ought to have known what the permanent way would cost. He only mentioned these things in order to justify the anxiety which was felt in the country in regard to the manner in which Government Departments,—not alone the Department of the noble Lord—carried on their work. The country felt that it was not as well served as private employers were. The noble Lord said that they had a good article in the Uganda Railway. He had his doubts about that, and they were based on the Report which was issued last year by Colonel Gracey. He frankly admitted that the matter could not be judicially or fairly treated in detail in a public discussion, but he noticed one or two statements in the Report which caused him to doubt whether they had got such a good railway as the noble Lord tried to persuade them they had. Colonel Gracey reported that from mile 16 to mile 102 there ought to have been a totally different alignment; and practically recommended that the line should be relaid. Colonel Gracey was a member of the Foreign Office Committee.

*LORD CRANBORNE said that perhaps he ought to correct a mistake he made on Tuesday, when he said that when Colonel Gracey inspected the line he was a member of the Committee. He was now a member of the Committee; but was not a member when he inspected the line.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that Colonel Gracey was sent out as our independent expert, and the result of his examination was a very damaging Report. He was glad that Colonel Gracey was now a member of the Committee; and he was not attacking him in the least. The part of the line which Colonel Gracey reported on adversely as regarded alignment was the easiest portion, being nearly level. There seemed to be great uncertainty about purely practical matters. Colonel Gracey reported that some of the temporary diversions went so far afield that the rail head was completed before they were. Then as to the temporary inclines, of which he had some photographs, were they to be removed?

*LORD CRANBORNE said that of course they were temporary.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES asked what was the point of making them at all. Colonel Gracey also reported that 250 miles of ballasting would have to be done, at a cost of £125,000. Why had not the question of ballasting been raised before? Either it was, or was not, necessary. If it were not necessary, he could not understand Colonel Gracey saying it was. He ventured on Tuesday to make a comparison between the Uganda Railway carried out by the Foreign Office Committee and the Beira Railway carried out by a firm of contractors. The Secretary of State for War said that the conditions were dissimilar; but the right hon. Gentleman did not prove that, because there were only two degrees difference involved. The noble Lord said that the Beira Railway was the worst constructed railway in Africa. He ventured to deny that. He had made inquiries on the subject, and he thought the noble Lord would be sorry he had made that statement when he knew that the railway had been built absolutely according to specification, and that it had been passed by a Government Department. He could not help thinking that the noble Lord had been misled by the fact that during the recent war in South Africa a change in the gauge was being made. When the Yeomanry were sent to operate in the northern part of the Transvaal, he understood there were difficulties; but these difficulties were not due to the construction of the line. The line, in fact, had to be re-constructed in order to remedy a mistake on the part of the engineer in regard to the gauge, with which the contractors had nothing whatever to do. He ventured to think that before they voted this large sum of money they should be very vigilant indeed in regard to how it was going to be spent. He would not move the Amendment standing on the Paper in his name, but content himself with the protest he had made.

(3.17.) MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) said that on a previous occasion he had asked what were the concessions which had been granted to Companies in Uganda. The noble Lord had frightened many hon. Members on that side of the House when he used the word "concessions." He was glad to think, from a perusal of the Paper presented to the House, that, so far, not very much harm had been done. They had a fear that if the Government began granting concessions they might have the same experience in the future as in the past. There was one concession in regard to certain pearl fisheries on the coast of the Protectorate——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That has nothing to do with the Vote of £600,000 for completing the Uganda Railway, which is the question before the House.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY said he would not pursue the subject further, since it would, he believed, come up under the Protectorate Vote. [Lord CRANBORNE: Hear, hear.] In the Appendix to the Memorandum, at page 5, there was an estimate of £80,747 for surveys. Now, these surveys had been going on for a good many years. In fact the Memorandum stated that there had been three surveys. He should think that a great deal of the trouble the Foreign Office had had in making this railway would have been saved had they spent more money at the beginning in the survey. Before they were finished with this railway they would have to spend £10,000,000 [MINISTERIAL cries of "No, no!"] Yes; next year they would have to come for a Vote of nearly a million, for orders had been given for material which was wanted to the extent of £500,000 or £600,000.

*LORD CRANBORNE: All that is taken into account in these tables.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY said that on page 7 of the Memorandum it was stated that the cost to end of September, 1899, for rolling stock was £246,332, and if that was added to the value of the rolling stock under supply, it amounted to £455,707, which must be paid for next year.

*LORD CRANBORNE thought that the hon. Gentleman was under a misapprehension. The Return was divided into various sections. The first was as to the cost for rolling stock up to September, 1899, and the next was the basis on which the original estimate was framed. If the hon. Gentleman wanted to find out the details of the new estimate, he should look a little further on at page 8.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY said that the cost of rolling stock up to September, 1899, was £246,332, and he thought the great bulk of that must have been paid for; but the Government must come for another estimate next year. The other day he had asked the noble Lord to give the House the terms and conditions of the commission which was paid to the Crown agents for the Colony. That question was raised two years ago, and it was promised to be gone into. Very large sums had been paid in the past to the Crown agents for the Colony as commission, and he had no doubt that they would continue to be paid. What he wanted to know was, what these Crown agents did for the very large commission which they were given. He was very glad that the House had had this discussion on this Vote. The railway was absolutely necessary, but its construction should be conducted in a proper business manner. Any business man would look into the accounts, see what the railway was, and what it was expected to do before he ordered, year after year, regardless of expense, an enormous number of locomotives and trucks and passenger carriages—ten times as many as would be required for years. The traffic would have to grow, or they would have to take up the rails. They all hoped that the traffic would grow, and that the railway would form an outlet for employment. But until it had grown they had no right to spend so much money on rolling stock and in making stations. He should most decidedly go to a division.

(3.23.) MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that when this Vote was under discussion the other night he expressed the opinion that all these details, although important in themselves, were not nearly so important as the general question of the position of the enterprise as it at present stood. The railway was nearly completed; they had got an estimate of the working expenses each year, and they could look at the prospects of the railway for the future. They had spoken of it as the Uganda railway. He ventured to say that that was a mistake, for it never touched Uganda at all. It should be called the Mombasa and Victoria Nyanza Railway. It was a great factor in our occupation of that country. The railway had become the central feature in our administration of the country. There was a saying that Egypt was the Nile; and it would be equally true to say that this railway was the British East African Protectorate. It should be remembered that the House had already this year voted £657,000 for Uganda, of which £250,000 was for the railway; and now the Government came asking for £600,000 more. The fact was that these payments would go on annually increasing. By far the most interesting figures in the Return laid on the Table of the House were those in page 4, to which he would be very glad if the noble Lord would direct his attention. There was a statement, without any comment, that the working expenses in 1900 amounted to £350,393, and in 1901 to £378,891. Just above that they had the receipts, including the general traffic and the Protectorate stores, and these amounted to £80,797, so that there was a loss on the working expenditure of £300,000. What he wanted to know was where did this loss in working expenditure come out of? It could not come out of the grant in aid to which he had referred; it must come out of the sum which the House was voting as capital expenditure.

*LORD CRANBORNE: Hear, hear.

MR. LOUGH said that that was a very important admission on the part of the noble Lord. It should be voted as a charge for the year, because there could be no return for these working expenses. In the table already quoted, he had sought to find some explanation of these large working expenses. In the second column on page 5, he believed, the working expenses were put down under the head of "general charges," which amounted to £484,000. That was where the loss came in. He turned to the explanation given on page 11, under the head of "general charges." That explanation was that the chief engineer had "only estimated those charges up to the date of the rails reaching the Lake, surmising that after that date a large proportion of the staff would be charged to Revenue Accounts; but it had been decided that until the rails were on the permanent alignment, all must be charged to capital." So that here they found that the large loss on working expenditure was not voted for annual payment, but was charged to loan. That seemed to be extremely extravagant. It was hard to find an exact parallel in this country to the working of the Uganda Railway, but there was a line in Scotland, 438 miles long, where the expenses were £340,000 a year. There was another line in Ireland, 550 miles long, and the working expenses were £340,000. Those were instances of regular working lines upon a most expensive scale. Why should the working expenses of this railway in Uganda be anything like £380,000 a year? This was a matter upon which they certainly should have a better explanation. It meant, in addition to the capital expenditure, that the British taxpayer would have to find this £300,000 a year extra, and that would make their expenses in Uganda nearly one and a half millions a year. Although part of this money had been raised by loan, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have to deal with it. There had been a hint of new expenditure upon steamers on one of the lakes in connection with the railway, and he should like the noble Lord to say if that expenditure was covered by this estimate?

*LORD CRANBORNE: Not at all.

MR. LOUGH said the expenditure provided was in connection with the railway at one end, but he wished to know if further expenditure was not going to arise at the other end near Mombasa. Unless some steps were taken in this matter, he was sure that no reduction would be possible for some time to come. Allusion had already been made to the views Sir Harry Johnston had expressed in a work which had recently been published. This work gave an exceedingly interesting summary with regard to the railway and the total expenditure that might be incurred, and he agreed that the total cost of the railway would be covered by the present estimate. Before the railway was finished the total capital outlay would be about £11,500,000. Sir Harry Johnston said there had been no absolute discovery of mineral wealth, although ostriches, coffee, sugar, India rubber, tobacco, and timber were to be found, but they were not produced in remunerative quantities. This was the country in which they had sunk £11,000,000 or £12,000,000 with no prospects of getting it back again. That was the question towards which this House ought to look. He had heard something about the natives stealing bolts and nuts, but they would never find them again. The policy they were pursuing in Uganda was a great question towards which hon. Members would have to turn their attention. What was to be the final result? There was practically no population to use the railway, and the goods traffic there was infinitesimal. Sir Harry Johnston recommended that this £12,000,000 should be turned into a national debt, to be repaid by the inhabitants by instalments beginning ten years hence. He thought that would be the worst secured national debt in the world, and it would become a heavy barrier to any colonists going out there. They need not question any more the difference between Imperial ideas upon this question, for there really was no difference. He wanted their Imperialism to be shown to be a little cheaper. For this expenditure there was no return, and no possibility of any. He suggested that they should send out some practical business man, and tell him that this country could not afford a loss of £300,000 a year upon this railway, and it must really be brought down to £200,000. This expenditure ought to be cut down in the interests of the taxpayers of this country. They could not afford to spend such a large amount of money in Uganda, and he hoped the noble Lord would satisfy the House by holding out some immediate prospect of a reduction.

*(3.35.) MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland) said he rose to take part in the debate, not only because he had long taken an interest in the affairs of East Africa, but also because he was, he believed, the only Member of this House who had visited the kingdom of Uganda and had travelled on the railway throughout its length. Two questions, separate and distinct arose upon this Vote. The first was the question whether or not this railway was necessary. The second was the question whether its construction had been carried out with a due regard to economy. As to the necessity for the construction of the railway he entertained no doubt whatever. The railway was the inevitable consequence of annexation, and it was impossible to govern this Protectorate efficiently and cheaply without such means of communication. The journey from the coast used to take three months marching, and the cost of carrying goods was then about £200 per ton. Under those circumstances it was obvious that either the cost of government by the British in that Protectorate must have been very great, or else that the government would have been inefficient. The construction of this railway was inextricably bound up with the question of annexation. It was true that the annexation of Uganda was not to be justified merely on the grounds of commercial profit. The soil was for the most part very fertile, and there could be a very large trade in produce with the neighbouring countries. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen had said that the natives were not willing to work, but that was not so, and there was at present a demand for English goods. They liked our linen goods, soap, and umbrellas, and were willing to work in order to obtain the means of purchasing the commodities by which they set store. There were many other things which could be imported, and many products which could be exported in exchange. But, on the other hand, the world's supply of tropical produce at the present time was so large that it was very likely that there would not be any remunerative trade in these products from Uganda for some time. The main reasons for the annexation were different. There were political reasons. An active party had existed in Uganda, led by the French Catholic priests, which openly advocated the annexation of the country to France. A German had actually succeeded in making a treaty, which had subsequently to be disavowed, establishing German influence there. If this country had not taken over Uganda it would have been under a foreign Power now, and a wedge would have been driven between the Soudan and British East Africa. The condition of

the natives during the eight years that the British flag had been flying over Uganda had vastly improved They were a highly interesting race. They were a very intelligent people, skilful handicraftsmen, eager for education. They greatly appreciated British rule. He had an opportunity of speaking to many of the native chiefs through interpreters, and they invariably volunteered statements that they were grateful for British rule, and appreciated the benefits which that rule had conferred upon them. One of them told him that now they would have no more wars, and they were only anxious to help the British Government to keep the country happy and prosperous. Before the British went there the country was the scene of continual internecine conflicts, and the kings used to be guilty of barbarous cruelties in the wanton execution of natives, as Speke, Stanley and the missionaries had testified. The slave trade was rife, and the minor chiefs made many cruel exactions from the peasantry. All those evils had now been stopped with a firm hand. There were now many mission stations throughout the country, which were much welcomed by the people. This seemed to be the one tropical country where, in recent years, missions had been a genuine success. Schools had been established there, and there were hospitals in the various districts. [An HON. MEMBER: Are they voluntary schools?] Yes, they were voluntary schools, and he only wished that the Government could see their way clear to make a grant to that class of voluntary schools at all events.

It appeared that all those benefits counted for nothing with some hon. Members. The hon. Member for Battersea said that he would rather spend £10,000,000 upon a railway in Essex than £1,000 upon a railway in Uganda.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): Hear, hear.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said he was sorry to find himself in conflict with the hon. Member upon this question, for he generally found himself in accordance with the views of the hon. Member upon domestic questions. It appeared to him to be a monstrous doctrine that the duties of this country were limited solely to the people of this country, and that because a man's skin was black you should not help him; because he lived in another continent you should pay him no attention. The principles of progress could not be limited merely to our own shores, and he ventured to say that if this was to be the new humanitarianism, if these were the doctrines of modern philanthropy, if these were the new principles of social reform, they had fallen off very greatly from the time when humanitarianism was a world-wide creed, and allowed no distinctions of race and country. He had always held that one of the most glorious pages in the records of that House was the page on which was inscribed the Vote of £20,000,000 for the freeing of the slaves. Such expenditure as this stood on a similar footing. It was money spent for the uplifting of the backward peoples of the world. Charity ought to begin at home, no doubt, but he had yet to learn that it ought to end there. Approving of the general policy of annexation in regard to Uganda, he must therefore approve also of the construction of the railway.

As the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs had said, this railway was a good article, and it appeared to him to be a well-built railway, and competent judges had confirmed this opinion. One of the most remarkable assets they had in regard to this railway was the railway workshops which had been built at Nairobi, and which employed 600 artisans. These workshops were well-equipped with modern machinery, and he believed that they made everything that was required for the railway except wheels and rails. This was all being accomplished by Indian labour on the spot, under the direction of English engineers.

Turning to the question of expense, he thought this was a case where the greatest economy should have been observed. For many years to come there was likely to be a very small revenue from the railway. The territory through which it passed was very thinly populated. They might go for miles without seeing a soul. The stations were almost all groups of corrugated iron huts in the midst of unpopulated plains. It was true that around Nairobi there was a great highland plain about as large as England in which the climate was perfectly healthy, and in which Europeans were likely to settle. Sir Charles Eliot, the Chief Commissioner of British East Africa, had said that in time it was likely to become another New Zealand. There was also the prospect of the formation of a large Indian colony by the shore of the lake. It was possible that valuable mineral wealth might be discovered, and it was certain that the new steamers now being built would bring from the thousand miles of coast lands round the lake large quantities of tropical goods. But this was in the future, and it would take many years to develop these resources so as to become a source of profit. He had had many opportunities of talking to English people in East Africa and Uganda upon the question of the cost of the railway. He had approached the question absolutely without bias; if anything, his sympathies were rather with those who had constructed the railway, because he knew well what difficulties they had had to contend with. He had spoken to a large number of people upon this point—administrators, traders, missionaries, doctors, soldiers, engineers—and the unanimous opinion of every single one of them was that there had been great extravagance in the building of the railway, that there had been frequent waste and some laxity of financial control. He never heard an opposite opinion upon this point from any single individual. He was not stating his own view, for he was only in the country for about two months, and he was not an engineer. But he had no hesitation in saying that this was the view of European public opinion throughout Uganda and East Africa. They believed that due regard had not been paid to economy, and that a great deal of the nation's money had been wasted. Temporary lines had been constructed at great cost, the whole of which would bring no return. When he travelled on the railway in March and April of this year, the permanent line was nearing completion; but one travelled for miles and miles, for hour after hour, on temporary lines passing over embankments, through cuttings, over bridges; and on the hillsides below one could see hundreds of coolies at work building the permanent line. They had been building not one but two railways. The expense of this temporary line had been incurred simply on account of the haste to get to the lake. Then there was the rope incline which cost £31,000, and which cost between £6,000 and £10,000 a year to maintain, but now that the permanent line had been completed, the incline had been completely dismantled. It was like one of those great lifts going down to the sea shore, and was a very expensive thing to construct and work. He could never see what advantage there was to get to the lake in 1901 at such a great expense instead of waiting until 1903 for the permanent line to be completed, and if instructions had not been sent to the engineers to get to the lake at an unduly early period many hundreds of thousands of pounds might have been saved. In the future they would have to undertake a further expenditure. The town of Nairobi, with about 9,000 inhabitants, had been built by the railway for its own headquarters. That town was built on a plain surrounded by hills. On the hills the residences of the British administrators and several of the chief English officials of the railway had been built. These were fairly comfortable bungalows on the hill sides. Down on the plain were rows and rows of corrugated iron buildings in which the railway officials were housed, and also the African natives who were employed on the railway. All these houses would have to be moved away from their present sites in the near future because they had been built on a dead level which it was impossible to drain, although great ditches had been cut across the plain at great expense. The consequence was that in the rainy season the place became unhealthy. When he was there bubonic plague was rife among the Indians in Nairobi. Considerable expenditure would have to be incurred in order to move that town from a site which ought never to have been chosen up to an equally convenient site close at hand. He asked the noble Lord why the town of Nairobi had been built on this particular site.

He very much doubted whether sufficient efforts were made to secure African labour for this railway. Practically the whole of the labour had been imported from India at immense cost. Twenty thousand coolies had been brought from India, and he had heard many persons who had experience of the natives declare that if proper steps had been taken by men acquainted with the habits and feelings of the natives, a large number of unskilled labourers could have been obtained in the country for this work. There had been one, and only one, considerable saving on the estimate, and that was with regard to ballasting. He found the following statement on page 9 of the "Memoranda relating to the Uganda Railway"—

> "By working slowly and with indigenous labour it has been found that a lower rate may be taken, which accounts for the less demand under this head."

He found that the reduction on the estimate was 20 per cent., because they had been willing to work more slowly than before, and because they had obtained a considerable amount of native labour. All these things ought to have had more careful attention from the Government than they had had. A very large expense had been caused by the failure of the contractors to deliver viaducts at the time the contract specified. There had been heavy expenditure owing to the difficulty of getting the necessary bridges in time. He asked the noble Lord whether there were any penalties under the contracts, and whether they would be enforced, so that this country might be recouped in some degree for the loss it had been put to in consequence of the delay in supplying the viaducts. He was told many times that if the Government would order an inquiry to be held into the way the money had been spent they would discover very many strange things. There had been one or two open scandals which had come before the law courts. He believed if an inquiry were held it would be found that a great deal of money had been absolutely wasted. He did not suppose the noble Lord would order an inquiry to be made, nor did he press for it, for the cost of it would be simply throwing good money after bad.

He could not, however, end his remarks in this note of criticism. While holding that the Foreign Office was to blame for the financial side of this undertaking, at the same time they had undoubtedly carried out a great and necessary work, and they had carried it out well in the face of immense obstacles. By the construction of this railway they had made the administration of British East Africa and Uganda possible. That would not have been possible otherwise. And they had brought succour and support to that handful of brave and lonely men—the administrators and the missionaries of the Uganda Protectorate—who, in the face of great difficulties, surrounded often by serious dangers, and doomed almost inevitably to frequent periods of ill-health, were striving, and striving successfully, to introduce the principles of enlightened government and the teachings of a higher morality into what had been one of the darkest spots of the Dark Continent.

*(4.5.) **LORD CRANBORNE**: I can forgive the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down for the criticisms which he has made against any details of the expenditure on behalf of the Uganda Railway when I consider the greater part of his speech and the complete answer which he has given to the observations of so many of his hon. friends. [AN HON. MEMBER: He agreed with them.] The hon. Member for West Islington said that the district we have to deal with is inhabited by nothing but barbarians.

MR. LOUGH: That was a joke.

***LORD CRANBORNE**: I do not think anybody laughed at it, though. The hon. Member thinks that the country produces no commodities worthy of the attention of the merchant.

MR. LOUGH: In merchantable quantity.

***LORD CRANBORNE**: The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down corrected him in both particulars, and explained that the people of Uganda were by no means the nation of pure barbarians which he seemed to think, but that, on the contrary, they were a progressive people with a great future before them, and that the country was fertile, producing many commodities which, in time, we hope, will bring some remuneration for the expenditure to which we have been put.

The hon. Member for the Cleveland Division made certain criticisms which it will be my duty to meet. He said that when he was travelling in the country he met a number of people who all agreed that there had been a great deal of waste. I do not doubt that in any enterprise of this kind a certain amount of waste must necessarily take place, but I confess I rather distrust the kind of gossip—I do not use the word in an offensive sense to the hon. Gentleman—which is picked up from various amateur critics who are not qualified to form an opinion, and to which the traveller, of course, is always subject. I distrust that all the more because some very considerable authorities do not seem to share the hon. Gentleman's opinion in that particular. I quoted on Tuesday the statement of Sir George Goldie. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about Col. Gracey's opinion?] I will deal with Col. Gracey in a moment. I will not repeat the quotation I read from Sir George Goldie, but he definitely says that the charge that the railway has been uneconomically made cannot be sustained. You may not agree with him. You may think that the railway was built on too extensive a scale. You may think that he was over sanguine in his hopes of return for the expenditure, but a man of his enormous experience has an opinion which must be taken into account.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: May I ask whether he went over the latter part of the railway, of which I spoke?

*LORD CRANBORNE: I am not quite able to say.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is Sir George Goldie a practical engineer?

*LORD CRANBORNE: I did not say he was, but I do not know that the hon. gentleman is a practical engineer either. I take Sir Harry Johnston. I am not going to repeat the quotation I gave from him the other day, but he certainly says that he thinks the appointment of Sir Guilford Molesworth and his assistants was thoroughly justified by the results which have been produced. Col. Gracey's report, to which so much attention has been called, and very properly called, does not express the view which the hon. Gentleman seems to think. If hon. Members will look at page 7 of the Report they will find a long paragraph in which he points out the immense difficulties that must necessarily belong to an enterprise of this kind. Then he goes on to say—

> "I have mentioned all this lest it should be thought, from my criticism of certain minor details, I have been unable to appreciate the excellent work that has been carried out by the staff of the Uganda Railway."

So that he does not by any means condemn the staff of the railway, root and branch, as might be supposed from some of the observations that have been made. On the contrary, he takes the view that, considering the immense difficulties which confronted them, on the whole the work which they put out is excellent [AN HON. MEMBER: He does not say that.] The hon. Member for the Cleveland division said there had been a great waste of money. A passage was pointed to in Col. Gracey's report in which he criticised the rope incline. It is abundantly true of engineers, as it is true of other men, that there are among them many different opinions, and there will be. Even within the covers of this Blue-book, hon. Members will see that the opinion given by Col. Gracey is by no means shared by others. If they turn to page 52 of this Blue-book, they will find a paragraph in which the opinion of Sir Guilford Molesworth is cited. If they look at the middle of the quotation they will see these words—

> "It will be necessary, in order to insure rapid progress of the railhead, to make use of a temporary rope incline, by which the permanent way materials may be lowered pending the completion of the work on the permanent line."

What the writer of this memorandum says in the next paragraph,—*i.e.*, that a year has been saved in the operation of carrying the rails through to the Lake, is a proof of the soundness of the decision arrived at. That is really the answer to the hon. Gentleman. The longer the line takes to make the longer will it be necessary to pay for the coolie labour imported from India. It is therefore important to get the work done as soon as possible.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: Is it economical to make two lines instead of one?

*LORD CRANBORNE: I prefer to trust the opinion of those competent engineers, rather than that of the hon. Gentleman, whose opinion after all must be that of an amateur.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: Whose opinion is that?

*LORD CRANBORNE: It is the opinion of Sir Guilford Molesworth, and if the hon Member for Swansea will look at page 62, he will see what is stated by him. Sir Guilford Molesworth approved of the decision of the Uganda Railway Committee to adopt the device of the rope incline. He stated that it would be necessary, in order to secure rapid progress to the rail-head, to make use of a temporary rope-incline, and by this means a year had been saved in carrying through the undertaking. That is the answer to the hon. Gentleman.

The right hon. Member for South Aberdeen has criticised the various reasons I put forward for the Estimate of 1900. I will not weary the House by repeating what I said the year before last, but let me make this observation. The right hon. Gentleman says, how absurd it is to talk of the weather being exceptional. I would ask, is not the weather in Uganda always exceptional? No doubt the weather is perpetually surprising; but, at the same time, I think it must be admitted that the weather is sometimes worse than at other times. The right hon. Gentleman may deny that, but there can be no doubt that the weather that year was exceedingly bad. The more experience we have of the weather in Uganda, the more entitled we are to speak with confidence that the weather was exceptional at a period when the railway was at a critical stage; and it did make an enormous difference in the cost of the construction of the railway. In England, if navvies cannot be employed owing to the bad weather, they are discharged. That course, however, cannot be followed in Uganda. The coolies employed on the railways are imported from India, and they have to be paid whether they work or do not work. When the weather is so bad that no work can be done, the cost thrown on those who are making the railways is very great indeed. The right hon. Gentleman, and others, have put the questions, "Why did the Foreign Office hurry on the railway?" "Why did they not wait for the complete survey of the line?" It is perfectly true that they did hurry on the railway, and did not wait for a complete survey; but everyone who has taken an interest in this question knows that there was a political necessity for hurrying on. I would remind the House that there were at least two other Powers competing with Great Britain for the possession of Uganda, and it must be evident to all that the sooner we established control and our authority over that territory the better it would be for our sovereignty.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: That was settled before the railway was begun.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The mere paper acquisition of a vast territory in East Africa was not sufficient; and the sooner it could be developed the better. Besides, any one who recognises the importance of having ready access to the higher waters of the Nile, in view of our Imperial position in Egypt, will acknowledge how necessary it was to have the railway rapidly completed. It was for that very reason that the Foreign Office did not wait for the survey, as they would have done under normal circumstances; and that it was which induced the Government also to take the work in hand themselves instead of employing a contractor. I ventured to say on Tuesday, and I repeat it this afternoon, that the fact that the estimate was originally too low does not mean necessarily that too much money has been spent in the end. Assuming that every estimate was exceeded, the question is not whether the estimates were good or bad, but whether too much money has been spent. The Uganda railway has been by no means so expensive as the Cape line and the Natal line. The Cape line cost £10,000 per mile, and the Natal line £13,000 per mile, while the Uganda line only cost £9,500 per mile. The hon. Member for West Islington, who was very eloquent on the working expenses of the railway, has got hold of a mare's nest. The hon. Gentleman referred to the table on page 4 of the Memorandum, but I do not think the hon. Gentleman understood it. The figure he took was £378,000 as the working expenses of the line in 1901, and he asked how that money was to be defrayed. It will be defrayed out of the very grant which the House is now being asked to vote. It is in its bulk part of the capital expenditure on the railway.

MR. LOUGH: Why is it called "Working expenditure"?

*LORD CRANBORNE: It represents, in its major part, the cost of bringing material up from the coast to rail head; and if the hon. Gentleman will read carefully the recent account of how this excessive expenditure arose, he will see that in almost every item a large part of the excess is due to what it cost to take the material from the coast to rail head. The traffic earnings amounted to £80,000 last year. With regard to the working expenses, it is calculated that the net loss will be £78,000 a year. But, of course, as the Protectorate develops, and trade and commerce increase, we have no doubt that the margin of loss will be a gradually diminishing quantity.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said there was a great ambiguity about the tables. The difficulty was that no distinction was drawn between the cost of carriage of railway stores and the cost of carriage of Protectorate stores.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The first table excludes the carriage of Protectorate stores and railway construction stores; while the second table includes the carriage of Protectorate stores, but excludes the carriage of railway stores. The hon. and learned Gentleman has asked me to explain the reason for the excess in the cost of the earthworks. Well, in the first place there was an under estimate, because of the want of a detailed survey, of which I have already spoken; and, in the second place, the bad weather, which stopped progress, was responsible for almost half of the cost. The cost of the bad weather per unit involved an under-estimate of 20 per cent. on the earth-works alone. The hon. Gentleman referred also to the permanent way. As regards that, the rise in the prices of material and freight from England accounted for £16,000; the replacement of wooden sleepers by steel sleepers over the first eighty miles, £17,000; and the rise in the price of coal and in the cost of carriage from the coast, £35,000. There was also a small increase in the length of deviations, and a certain under-estimate of the cost of taking up deviations, making a total excess of £73,000.

In conclusion I will only say that I am perfectly confident that in any work of the kind blunders would necessarily be made; and I will go so far as to admit that the probability is that there would be a certain amount of waste involved. That is not new to the House of Commons. Let the House consider, for instance, the Manchester Ship Canal. I used to be a Lancashire Member, and I know a great deal about it. Why, the under-estimate for the Uganda Railway is incomparable with the under-estimate for the Manchester Ship Canal. It is our universal experience, whether in our public or private capacity, that engineering works are always under-estimated. The House must not, however, think that I am defending under-estimating. On the contrary, I much regretted it; but as I explained on Tuesday, although there were circumstances over which the Government or the engineers had had no control which were responsible for a large part of the excess, yet, I do think that the under-estimate in certain important particulars cannot be defended in that way. Mistakes were undoubtedly made, and on behalf of the Government I regret them. I hope the House, after listening to the eloquent defence of this enterprise by the hon. Member for the Cleveland Division, will be good enough to grant the money we now asked for, and enable the Bill to be introduced.

(4.35): THE MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian) said he wished to make it quite clear that the original cost of the Cape and Natal Railways was £7,000 per mile, and that if the noble Lord mentioned £13,000 a mile the margin must have been spread over the several years since the line was constructed. On the same calculation, the cost of the Uganda line would amount to £18,000 or £19,000 per mile. He had always been in favour of the Uganda Railway. He thought when they annexed large provinces in Africa, in any shape or form, the sooner they joined point to point, as the Russians did in the East, the better. When he was in Rhodesia ten or eleven years ago he considered that the country was a barren and useless acquisition. Now it had 1,400 miles of railway, along which townships had sprung up; and in Fort Salisbury there was a population of some 2,000 white men. Personally, he would never hesitate to vote money for the construction of a railway in any province that might be annexed. For instance, he was in Khartoum this year. What was the result of the railway? Why, in the bazaars of Omdurman, Birmingham and Manchester goods were being sold. Though he believed the railway would pay in course of time, he thought it was open to legitimate criticism that the expenditure on the Uganda Railway was so heavy and extravagant. That made it very difficult for them on that side to support their votes before their constituents; but if a division were taken he intended to support the Government.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said the noble Lord had not met the gravamen of the charge against the Government, and had made no case whatever against the excessive expenditure on the Uganda Railway. From 1892 to 1895 he did what he could, in a humble way, to try to press on the Liberal Government of the day the necessity of proceeding with the railway, on the ground that the French were endeavouring to secure an interest in Uganda which ought to be secured for the Empire. The Germans were then entering into an arrangement to construct a railway from their sphere of influence, and he thought it advisable that the Government should also construct a railway in their sphere of influence. The railway was advocated mainly on humanitarian considerations. The district between the coast and Uganda was alive with slave caravans, and the construction of the railway had prevented enormous mortality. Not only did it destroy the slave trade in the interior, but it saved a vast amount of life in connection with the transit of commodities from the coast. It used to take between two and three years for transit from Mombasa and back. Natives had to carry 70 lbs. on their heads over the 1,200 miles there and back; and only one in eight returned alive to the coast. It was to the credit of the Empire that it faced that situation, and acknowledged its responsibility. When Africa was apportioned they took upon themselves certain responsibilities towards the natives, and the railway was the result. As regarded the question of expenditure, it seemed to him absurd for the noble Lord to contend that there was any justification for pressing on the railway in recent years; and nothing that the noble Lord had said justified the excessive expenditure which they condemned. There was an allusion in the memorandum to £379,000 as being the gross working expenditure. To the ordinary individual that would appear to be a most extravagant expenditure, taking into consideration that there was only one passenger train a week from the coast to the Lakes, and only two passenger trains to Nairobi. That appeared to him to be a matter which required looking into. The officials no doubt desired to have as much money as possible to spend; but the House of Commons was the trustee for the British taxpayer, and should see that there was no extravagant expenditure. They thought that the Government was responsible for a good deal of the extravagance that had occurred; and they denounced it, though many of them agreed as to the desirability of constructing the railway.

(4.43.) MR. JOHN BURNS said the noble Lord was not to blame personally, nor was he responsible departmentally, for the sad and lamentable revelations made on the Opposition side of the House, which were supported by quotations from various reports, and strikingly confirmed by the only hon. Member who had happened to pay a flying visit to the country. But the noble Lord was politically responsible for the £600,000 the House was going to vote. He was responsible for the many blunders he had himself admitted to have taken place, and he would be responsible for many more unless he was prepared to boldly face the situation revealed in the discussion and to set his house in order, and either bring home or dismiss any official who in the future carried on the administration of the Protectorate in the same wasteful, extravagant, and unbusinesslike way. If the noble Lord had couched the whole of his speech as he did the concluding sentences of it, he would have been perfectly content; but while the noble Lord admitted blunders, and admitted waste, which he curiously said was not new to the House of Commons——

*LORD CRANBORNE said that what he intended to say was that gross under-estimating was not new to the House of Commons.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that the noble Lord admitted blunders, waste, and excessive expenditure over estimates; but the country was determined that it should be the duty of every Member of the House of Commons to take greater notice of expenditure, especially in those parts of the world where criticism was necessary both in the interests of efficiency and economy. The noble Lord expressed some modified regret at the blunders which had taken place, but he had not said a word about the future. He gave no promise of reform, and no suggestion that the experience of the past would induce him to keep a tighter hand on his officers, especially in the dark and outlying places of the earth. The railway was originally intended to cost three millions, and to this date it had cost nearly six. That was an excess of expenditure over the estimate the noble Lord was responsible for now. In the completion and the future administration of the railway, the noble Lord ought to keep to the closest line of the estimates. If he did not promise reform in these matters, what reason had the House to assume that the absence of the sense of responsibility on the part of his officers out in Uganda would not continue in the future? What reason had they to believe that his officers at the outposts would change their course of action, if they knew that Ministers here were prepared to back them up and defend them at all hazards? What guarantee had they that the expenditure would not go on as extravagantly in the future as it had done in the past? He did appeal to the noble Lord to make some promise that, if not this session, next session, when this question came before the House, he would do his very best to see that this railway was economically finished and satisfactorily worked, and that the whole administration would be put on better lines. He was intensely amused at the deft way in which the noble Lord tried to balance the hon. Member for the Cleveland Division and other Members with whom that hon. Member was not agreed, in every particular as to the extravagant and wasteful way in which this railway had been built and the administration was carried on.

*LORD CRANBORNE: Not at all.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he never heard more damaging criticism made about the work of a railway and the conduct of a Protectorate than the hon. Member for Cleveland made, verified as he was by personal observation.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: I did not say anything about the administration of the Protectorate.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he would deal with that later on. This balancing of one set of opinions against another in this House had been tried before. Admitting that there might be some differences of opinion between the hon. Member for Cleveland and some other Members, they were in substantial agreement as to the way in which this railway had been made. The noble Lord was prepared to accept the hon. Member's difference from his colleagues on this side of the House on a small matter, but when it was necessary to throw over the hon. Member in regard to a material particular, he talked about the tales of gossip which were told to travellers. It was perfectly true that the hon. Member for Cleveland must have had tales told to him. But the facts disclosed in the Blue-book showed what the administration of the Protectorate had been, and it should be remembered that it was not the interest of any official to put the worst side out. Very frequently striking defects were covered over by officials with the charity which covers a multitude of sins. He ventured to say that if the noble Lord would look at his own Blue-book, and read, in addition to the views of Sir George Goldie and Sir Guilford Molesworth, the statements contained in the Report of Colonel Gracey, he would be able to correct his own opinion. Above all, if he would read the literature published by competent men on the question of opening up South Africa, even Sir Harry Johnston, Sir George Goldie, Sir Guilford Molesworth, and make allowance for the optimism which travellers indulged in, especially when they were of the Stanley type, he would find underlying all this optimism that there was a tragic story to be told with regard to the making of that railway and the present administration thereof. The hon. Member declined to accept Sir George Goldie's view of the situation at all. For years Sir George Goldie was his employer. He had nothing but praise and admiration for him as a gentleman, and he had no fault to find with him as a business man, but he would no more think of taking his opinion on the construction of a railway, the repairing of a ship, the engagement of coolies, the formation of an embankment or an escarpment, or anything of that kind, than he would think of taking the noble Lord's opinion on golf or cricket. The noble Lord would pardon him if he was rather persistent on this particular subject. He happened to know a good many of the men who had been out there. Speaking broadly and generally, they all came to the same conclusion as to the expense of the Uganda railway.

He entirely endorsed the criticism of the hon. Member for Cleveland, which was confirmed by the Blue-book, as to the cost of the railway. The hon. Member for Cleveland differed from him on the broad principle that induced this country to go to Uganda. He did not intend to discuss that matter at length, but he thought they were all agreed that the real reason that took us to Uganda was that we might get command of the head waters of the Nile. We were anxious to get there to keep France and Germany out, lest they might turn off the tap of the river Nile. If anyone were to make it now that suggestion would be regarded as the most fanciful and idiotic it was possible to make. That was the fatuous reason that took us to Uganda. All the authorities who had been to the head waters of the Nile stated that they were not commanded at all by that district. Distinguished travellers had proved that if they were to be commanded at all it was rather in Abyssinia than in the district in which the Uganda railway was extending. If, as he had been told, the object of the annexation was to command the head waters of the Nile, that had turned out a mere fiction. The hon. Member for Cleveland told them that, given annexation, the railway was necessary, but he also stated that the railway was badly made at an extravagant cost. Then with a pleasing, light, and airy touch, such as might be observed in one who gave lantern lectures to his constituents, the hon. Member gave a description of the country. He also told the House that there was on the part of the natives, a desire for flowing garments and umbrellas, and that there was a great demand for soap. The fact that the country was fertile was no reason for building a railway. Acre for acre England was possibly one of the most fertile and productive countries in the world. He would rather spend a million of the country's money on the construction of railways here to help our English farmers than see this country command the head waters of the Nile. If the noble Lord could command these head waters, and provide the natives, who were well-dressed, with flowing garments, umbrellas and soap, did he think that the expenditure of £6,000,000 of money would be justified? He would rather spend that money in solving the Irish problem, and that was just the round sum that would save Ireland next session from the internecine war that had been going on there for centuries. £6,000,000 formed really the outstanding difference between Ireland and this country, and on the question whether that money would be better spent upon people in Africa, who loved flowing robes, umbrellas and soap, or upon people at home, he had made up his mind. The hon. Member for Cleveland said that we went there probably from humanitarian reasons. He said that the people were intelligent and adaptable, that they loved British rule, that the children of the place were flocking to school, and that there were plenty of hospitals. When he listened to this philanthropic sentimentalism he was reminded of the poet's words—

> "I do believe in freedom's cause,
> As far away as Paris is."

He believed in freedom's cause, and in the saving of the people who were unemployed at this moment, to whom these £6,000,000 of money would be an inestimable boon. If they were going to carry out philanthropic humanitarianism where it was most needed, there were women in London and in the slums of other cities who might be rescued from a calling which they pursued for economic reasons. This money which was being spent on the construction of a railway in Uganda would do much to alleviate the sufferings of the poor of this country. The hon. Member for Cleveland had referred to the condition of the town of Nairobi. It was a most scandalous blot on the administration that there should be thousands of labourers living on an absolutely dead level plain, incapable of drainage, and where no end of disease must inevitably take place, while a few European officers were living on the higher ground where they could get better water and climate. What was the reason that these poor labourers had been put on this plain he could not understand. They would have to be moved; and if a reason was wanted why they should be moved, one had only to turn to the reports of the death-rate and the sickness among the labourers, whose conditions of life had been scandalously neglected by the engineers who were responsible for them. There were 2,367 deaths of labourers up to 1901; 6,354 had been invalided and taken back to India in that year; and 12,644 of these poor labourers had been admitted to hospital. This indicated a neglect of sanitary precautions which ought not to be tolerated for one moment longer by the noble Lord who had charge of this particular branch of the Administration.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The hon. Member ought to give the total number of labourers employed. The death-rate is 11 per 1,000.

MR. JOHN BURNS said 11 per 1,000 was too much. It was an awful death-rate, and it could have been avoided if proper precautions had been taken. The Reports of our own Foreign Office gave unmistakable evidence of the deadliness of the climate, while the Reports of the German Foreign Office showed that bubonic plague was indigenous to Uganda, and decimated the population. When, therefore, it was said that there was a probability of Europeans colonising there, all he could say was that any Englishman who attempted to do so ought to be sent either to a lunatic asylum or to a home for inebriates. He had not criticised this branch of foreign affairs because he thought the reason for going to the Lake could be revised; they could not undo that policy, but they could modify it in important details. Had we not almost enough territory wherewith to occupy our attention, politically, industrially, and commercially? This Uganda policy was a link in the long chain of rash, costly, deadly Imperialism that involved this country in the most costly war of modern times. He believed in Imperialism of the old-fashioned type—the establishment of coast trading stations and commerce extended by winning the confidence of natives by fair dealing. Results should impress the Government with the folly of these schemes for extension of Empire. Unless the Foreign Office was seriously impressed by the criticisms which had been delivered in the light of sound information, this expenditure of these six millions would double, and, finally, the only asset would be two long rusty steel ribbons stretching from Mombasa to Victoria Nyanza abandoned in despair because our policy of universal grab had landed us in trouble nearer home. Our rivals were delighted to encourage us on these mad-cap expeditions, because in them we lost men and wasted money; but some day when we had to wrestle with the beasts in the European Ephesus, weakened in our outposts and dependent on alien troops, we should want the money and men that have been squandered by this Uganda policy.

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in upon the said Resolution by Lord Cranborne, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Deputy Chairman.

UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

"To provide further money for the Uganda Railway." Presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 308.]

MILITIA AND YEOMANRY BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. **Jeffreys** (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

*Sir **ARTHUR HAYTER** (Walsall) moved an Amendment providing that for the purpose of forming "a reserve" of the Militia and Yeomanry the Secretary of State might relax or dispense with the provisions of any enactment relating to the training of Militia and Yeomanry as they applied to men in the Reserve divisions. He said that his object was to get rid of the word "divisions," so as to constitute "a reserve" simply. It was difficult to understand what the word "divisions" in the Clause meant.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after 'form,' to insert 'a.'"—(*Sir Arthur Hayter.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'a' be there inserted."

The **SECRETARY** of **STATE** for **WAR** (Mr. **Brodrick**, Surrey, Guildford) said that there seemed to be some misunderstanding on this point. It was absolutely necessary to have the word "divisions" in the Bill. There was already a Militia reserve, but as at present constituted it was a reserve of the Army ; and if it was stated in the Bill that the object was to form "a reserve" the Committee would come into conflict with the present Militia Act. The provision had been drafted in this way so as not to be confused with the Militia reserve under the Army Act of 1882.

Mr. **COURTENAY WARNER** (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said there was a great deal to be said against the word "divisions," but the difficulty of the Secretary of State would be met by the use of the word "reserves" instead of "reserve." This was an entirely new kind of drafting, and he understood its effect would be that the reserve when formed would be divided into (*a*) (*b*) (*c*) and so on, as was the Army Reserve. In that way the very thing which had been condemned would be retained. It made one suspect that the War Office desired to do something other than was openly stated.

Colonel **SANDYS** (Lancashire, Bootle) wanted an assurance that the Militia reserve would not be taken from the ranks of the combatant battalions. The term "reserve" was practically a misnomer as applied to our Army, because we had not a reserve in the real sense of forming a second line of defence. We had a number of men who went on furlough from the ranks of the combatant battalions, and these men deteriorated every year, and had to be re-trained for any practical military purpose in time of war. The only way out of the difficulty was to go back to the long service system. A large reserve was contrary to the feeling both of the civil and military sections of the country. He was, however, particularly anxious that nothing should be done under the term "reserve" by which the efficiency of the battalion would be impaired.

Mr. **PIRIE** (Aberdeen, N.) said there was a great deal of ambiguity about the Bill, and the Committee ought not to give to the Secretary of State more than was absolutely necessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. **COURTENAY WARNER** moved an Amendment to make the Clause deal with the formation of "reserves" instead of "reserve divisions" of Militia and Yeomanry. The Amendment was, he thought, perfectly harmless, so far as the Secretary of State was concerned, but it would get rid of the word "divisions" of which they were rather afraid.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out the words 'reserve divisions,' and insert the word 'reserves.'"—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. **BRODRICK** said it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment. It was needful to draw a distinction between the new reserve, which would be a real Militia reserve, and the existing Militia reserve, which was in the nature of an Army reserve. According to legal advice, the word "divisions" was necessary.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER said he could not withdraw the Amendment. Now that the Secretary of State had given the authority on which he relied, he (the hon. Member) felt more convinced than ever that he was right in the view he took.

*Colonel LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square) asked for an explanation of the word "division" in the Bill. "Division" was a military term, and a "division" in the Army was composed of two or more brigades.

Mr. BRODRICK said it was absolutely necessary to retain the word. "Section" also was a military term. Words with a military significance were frequently used in their ordinary sense in Acts of Parliament, and everybody knew what a division was as between one class of individuals and another.

Mr. PIRIE pointed out that the word "reserves" would not stand alone, but that the Clause would read "reserves of the Militia and Yeomanry."

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) failed to see why the word "divisions" was needed, because the Secretary of State had taken power to set aside any enactment with regard to the training of the Militia. He could split the force up into brigades, sections, or divisions, just as he liked. Why, therefore, should he limit himself by this Clause, when he was unrestricted by Act of Parliament?

Colonel BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) said that the old Militia reserve which was liable to serve abroad was gradually dying out. While it was dying out this particular word was intended, as he understood the meaning of it, to distinguish between the present Militia reserve and that moribund Militia reserve.

Mr. BRODRICK: It is solely to distinguish them.

(5.30.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 632.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H'nry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doulgas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, George
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kimber, Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Murray, Rt Hn. A. Graham (Bute
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Spear, John Ward
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.

Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings)
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Warner and Colonel Sandys.

*SIR ARTHUR HAYTER moved to omit from the Clause the word "regulations" and insert "by Order in Council," the explanation being that the Bill gave the Secretary of State power by his own regulation to alter an Act of Parliament, whereas he held that that ought only to be done by Order in Council. There was great objection to allowing the Secretary of State by simple Regulation to alter an Act of Parliament. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the procedure by Order in Council as rather cumbrous, but he did not hear anything from him to show that the power which the Clause was to confer could not be obtained equally well by Order in Council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the word 'regulations' and insert the words 'by Order in Council.'"—(*Sir Arthur Hayter.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'regulations' stand part of the Clause."

MR. CALDWELL hoped that the Secretary of State for War would be able to accept the Amendment. It was practically conceded that he should have the power proposed to be given by the Clause, and it was a mere matter of machinery how it was to be given. It was unusual to give the Secretary of one of the Departments power to set aside any enactment. Such a proceeding should only take place on the corporate responsibility of the Cabinet, and the constitutional method of carrying it into effect was by Order in Council.

MR. BRODRICK said he could not accept the Amendment. The Bill had been before the House for some weeks, but the Amendment had been sprung upon him at a moment's notice. The words "Secretary of State" already stood part of the Clause, and consequently it was impossible to put in "by Order in Council." The Militia Act was full of instances in which the Secretary of State made regulations in pursuance of certain sections of the Militia Act. All the Secretary of State could do under this Bill was to make regulations relaxing or dispensing with any enactments relating to the training of the Militia. It was desirable that that should be done by Regulation, and not by Order in Council. He trusted the Amendment would not be pressed.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER asked the Secretary of State for War whether, if the Amendment could not be accepted, the right hon. Gentleman would promise to look into the matter and make a statement on the Report stage. Whatever was to be done in the way of forming reserve divisions of the Militia, it would have to be done by classes, and these different classes would have to be dealt with in different ways. He thought that the Regulations could be made just as well by an Order in Council as by the War Office.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. PIRIE said he wished to move as an Amendment to leave out the words "any enactment relating to the training of Militia and Yeomanry," in order to insert "the enactments specified in the schedule of this Act." His object was to make the Bill less vague. As it stood, the Clause gave an unlimited power to the Secretary for War of doing away with the functions and privileges of this House. His Amendment would rectify that, by compelling the right hon. Gentleman to specify definitely the enactment which he proposed to curtail by the Bill. The Bill had been drawn in an extraordinarily slovenly way.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words 'any enactment relating to the training of Militia and Yeomanry,' in order to insert the words 'the enactments specified in the schedule of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Pirie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. BRODRICK said he could not accept the Amendment, as the only enactments affected were enactments relating to the period and the method of training, and there was no necessity to set out their titles in the schedule.

MR. CALDWELL said that the powers for which the Secretary for War was seeking should not extend to future Acts of Parliament. He therefore suggested the insertion, after the word "enactment," of the words "any existing Act of Parliament."

MR. PIRIE said he would withdraw his Amendment, and move that suggested by the hon. Member for Mid-Lanark.

MR. BRODRICK said he had no objection to the insertion of these words.

Mr. PIRIE'S Amendment was, by leave, withdrawn, and the words suggested by Mr. CALDWELL were inserted.

MR. PIRIE moved to leave out from "and," in line 9, to the end of the Clause. He moved this Amendment in order to bring back the Bill to what was the original intention of the Secretary for War at the beginning of the session, when that right hon. Gentleman stated that he wished to create a Militia Reserve. He contended that the Committee was quite unable to discuss a measure of this far-reaching description without further information being given to them. He had already complained of the refusal of the Secretary for War to give any information in regard to the strength of the First and Second Army Corps, and the reasons put forward by the right hon. Gentleman for refusing that information were childish in the extreme.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said he not see how the remarks of the hon. Gentleman were applicable to the Amendment which he had proposed.

MR. PIRIE said he had ventured to make the remark because they had scarcely been able to discuss military matters this session. He would not, however, pursue the point. The powers proposed to be given by the Clause as it stood would constitute a complete revolution of the old constitutional force of the Militia, and would most seriously interfere with the recruiting. As regarded the Yeomanry, this was a proposition on which the Committee had no information whatever. He hoped that the Secretary for War would agree to postpone his demand for these fresh powers until next session, when the House and the country would be more fully aware of the full effect of what the right hon. Gentleman actually proposed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words from the word 'and,' to the end of the Clause." —(*Mr. Pirie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'any man in' stand part of the Clause."

MR. BRODRICK said that he had not the slightest desire to transfer men from one regiment to another, unless it was absolutely necessary in the interest of the public service. But there would be a number of men who had served in various Line battalions who would be eligible to serve in the Militia Reserve in case it was called out. It might happen, if the Militia Reserve were called out, that one battalion might contain 2,000 men, and another only 600 men, and all that was contemplated by the Clause was to enable the military authorities to bring up the deficient battalion to its proper strength by transferring to it men from the over-manned battalion. The military authorities must have the power, on occasions of emergency, of placing men where they were most needed. In the case of the Yeomanry regiments, which were also very unequal, the enrolment of these men would remain with the commanding officer. He did not think that any patriotic officer would complain if, in a moment of national emergency, a hundred men were transferred from his regiment to another which was a hundred men short.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury) asked if the right hon. Gentleman was to be understood as saying that the enrolment of the Yeomanry Reserve was to be left entirely to the discretion of the commanding officer. If that were so, he had nothing more to say. But if there was to be an enrolment of the Reserve, the right hon. Gentleman ought to tell the Committtee what the Reserve was for, what it was to do, whether it was to go out, and, if so, for how long, for annual training, and if it was or was not to receive pay. Generally, the Committee ought to be given fuller information as to the objects of the right hon. Gentleman.

COLONEL SANDYS said it appeared to him rather a painful sort of thing to remove a man from one regiment to another. Nothing could be more unsettling.

MR. BRODRICK said that that would only be done in cases of emergency.

COLONEL SANDYS said that, in that case, his criticism fell to the ground. He did not, however, think that any system which contemplated the transference of men from one regiment to another, whether in the Militia or the Yeomanry, as a permanent part of the administration of the army, would commend itself to experienced soldiers. He hoped, therefore, the matter would be further considered before it was finally adopted. He was glad to have heard what the Secretary of State said with reference to the Reserve. He had always held that one of the great necessities of the military system was that every regiment should have its Reserve battalion, both of officers and men, regularly constituted and trained at stated periods; and he was glad that the Secretary of State had adumbrated such a very desirable military reform. If a regiment were 2,000 strong it might be divided; but the point they should keep before their minds was that men and officers who had served together with the same regiment, who were known to each other, and who trusted each other, should not be separated and sent to other regiments, but should be kept together.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said that the Secretary of State had made a most able statement as to the advisability of keeping the battalions in fairly equal numbers, but the Clause before the Committee would not do that in the least. It was only a Clause to make the Reserve battalions equal as regarded numbers. Men would not go into a strange regiment in the Reserve any more than they would go into a strange regiment with the colours. A man would know the officers and the non-commissioned officers with whom he had served with the colours, and would wish to go into the Reserve battalion belonging to that regiment. The Clause would give the Secretary of State power to transfer men whether they liked it or not; but the right hon. Gentleman stated that the colonels would have power to refuse to enlist those men in the Yeomanry. That was quite a new thing; and he was glad to have heard the Secretary of State put it forward; but he himself heard only the other day from the commander of a Yeomanry regiment that he had no power to refuse men, as long as the regiment was below strength. Was there to be a fixed standard for the Reserve, and, if so, would the regiments be compelled to take men when they were below the standard? The regiments would have to be filled, and if the colonel could not get the men he wanted, would he be compelled to take the men that were sent to him.

MR. BRODRICK was understood to dissent.

MR. COURTNEY WARNER said he was very glad to hear that. He thought, however, that the Clause might be postponed until the Yeomanry part of the Bill was introduced next Session. They did not want to transfer men from one regiment to another against their will; though, of course, if men consented no difficulty would arise. If they compelled men, however, Yeomanry and Militia regiments would lose their *esprit de corps*, which was the very thing which held them together, and which should not be destroyed because of some imaginary danger.

COLONEL LEGGE said he was a very strong advocate of the regimental system, but he did not think there was any reason why, if the exigencies of the service required it, men should not be transferred from one regiment to another. But he would like to press on his right hon. friend that this liability should be clearly explained to the men when they enlisted.

MR. BRODRICK: Hear, hear!

MR. PIRIE said that there was no plea of urgency as regarded the Bill, and if there were, it was a plea damaging to the Government. The Bill would not have been introduced at all were it not for the prolonged debates on the Education Bill. The real reason for the Bill was the fact that the centres of population had shifted, which accounted for the enormous discrepancy in the numbers of the Militia battalions. A great scheme of Imperial defence would be introduced in a few months, and he strongly urged the postponement of the matter until then.

MR. FULLER asked whether he was right in understanding that the Yeomanry Reserve was to be raised at the option of the Yeomanry colonels.

MR. BRODRICK said Yeomanry colonels would have the option of accepting men for the Reserve or refusing them if they did not consider them eligible. It was likely that some of the men who had served in South Africa would come forward for the Yeomanry Reserve, and it was his desire to obtain their services in case of mobilisation for the weaker regiments.

(6.15.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 110; Noes, 41. (Division List, No. 633.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H'nry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Heaton, John Henniker
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kimber, Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp

Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Spear, John Ward
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Atherley-Jones, L.
Brigg, John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Pirie and Colonel Sandys.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford), on behalf of his hon. and gallant friend the Member for Taunton, moved the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after 'Militiamen,' to insert 'or Yeomen.'"—(*Major Rasch.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after 'arm,' to insert—'(2) All regulations made in pursuance of this section shall be laid before Parliament as soon as practicable after they are made if Parliament be then sitting, and, if Parliament be not sitting, as soon as practicable after the beginning of the next Session of Parliament.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. BRODRICK: In accordance with the pledge given I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out sub-Section (3)."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered Tomorrow.

OSBORNE ESTATE (RECOMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

MR. CALDWELL said he would not move the first Amendment standing in his name, as he thought the discussion he desired to raise could be raised on the second Amendment. As the House was aware, the Osborne estate belonged to her late Majesty as a private estate, and such estates were held in the same manner as if they were private estates of any subject of the realm, and her Majesty paid the rates and taxes on Osborne like any private individual, so that in considering this subject the question of Royalty was eliminated. Any precedent established by this Bill would have enormous force in subsequent dealings by Act of Parliament with regard to the disposition of the property of private individuals. By the will of her late Majesty Osborne estate was left in life-rent to the King. The life-rent interest afterwards went to the Prince of Wales, and the tenants in tail were the children of the Prince of Wales. They could deal with the life-rent interest of the King and of the Prince of Wales by consent. But there arose the question of the tenant in tail. He was the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, and obviously was not of an age to give consent. The King's interest was a life interest, and His Majesty had no power to settle the interest of the tenants in tail under this Bill. The life interest of His Majesty was all that ought to be pressed in a matter of this kind, and the King had a perfect right to dispose of his interest as he thought fit. He did not object to the country saddling itself with the obligation to carry out the wish of the King and to pay £3,000 or £5,000 a year in doing so; but he objected to the Government giving anything to the King that did not belong to His Majesty in full right of property. It might be urged that the Prince of Wales had given his consent. The country had always been very jealous in regard to consents where persons were under any supposed influence, and the Prince of Wales was practically under the influence of the King to such an extent that it would be impossible, even supposing that he wished it, for him to withhold his consent to the King's wish. If His Royal Highness did not do so, his position would be an intolerable one; and, therefore, he could not look upon the consent of the Prince of Wales as a matter of full and free consent which should operate in a transaction of this kind. He thought that the Bill went too far, and that it would establish two unfortunate principles. In the first place, it would overturn the will of the late Queen Victoria, and within two years of her death it would upset the arrangement that Osborne should remain one of the private estates of the Crown. A great deal had been heard in recent debates about the sanctity of the will of the founder. But here they were setting aside the will of the founder by Act of Parliament within two years and without any change of circumstances. Parliament was asked to pass a Bill to confiscate the rights of the tenants in tail without compensation; and if it could do this, it could as easily take away the rights of the tenants in tail of every Member of the House of Lords without compensation. It was really a very serious matter, and might form a precedent for dealing with the rights of private individuals.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 24, after 'shall' to insert 'during His Majesty's life.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said he was astonished that if there was any foundation in the arguments of the hon. Member he was so scantily supported by his friends on the Benches opposite. He did not think that the hon. Member was correct in saying that there was any chance of this Bill forming a precedent with reference to the disposal of private property. The hon. Member had expressed various beliefs as to the late Queen's wishes. He did not feel that he was in a position to enter into that question. He was certain, however, that Her Majesty the late Queen would have desired no better scheme for the occupation of this estate than that which was proposed in this Bill, bearing in mind her strong feelings for her Army and Navy. So far from Osborne being a "white elephant," the country had good reason to be deeply grateful to His Majesty for the consideration which had led him to make such a magnificent gift to the nation. Osborne was an estate of very great value, and still greater prospective value. Of course, the hon. Member would hold that that fact only strengthened his argument, but all he could say was that if the Amendment were carried it would mean the end of the Bill. It would be impossible to ask the nation to make the necessary expenditure of money if the gift was to be limited to His Majesty's lifetime, and that was the light in which His Majesty regarded the matter. It was quite true that they were taking away the right of the young Prince in the estate, but the King felt, and the House would feel, that to make this a real gift it was essential that all interests should be dealt with. Of course, the young Prince's interest was a remote one; if he were of age his consent would no doubt have been asked and no doubt given. It was acknowledged that they were taking away from an infant a right he now possessed; but that was a necessary part of the scheme, and, that being so, he was satisfied that the Committee would not consent to accept the Amendment.

MR. CALDWELL contended that this was a "white elephant" so far as the King's life was concerned. As to its great prospective value, that belonged, not to the King but to the tenants in tail, and that showed how serious was the principle involved.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CALDWELL moved certain alterations in the phraseology of sub-Section 4, the effect of which, he explained, would be that Osborne House, so far as it had been in the personal occupation of Her late Majesty, would be open to the public, and to limit the trust in favour of officers of the services to the rest of the house, and only such portion of the grounds as might, from time to time, be reserved for them by the Commissioners.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 19, after 'Majesty' to insert 'as also the grounds under their management.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir EDWARD CARSON, Dublin University) said it was impossible to accept the

Mr. Ritchie.

Amendment, as it would completely alter the scheme of the Bill. The public would have such use of the grounds as the Commissioners of Works might think it proper to give under the general powers of management conferred on them by the Acts of Parliament under which they operate, but to say that the grounds would be kept exclusively for a particular purpose, and not to allow any discretion to the Commissioners, would be to render the working of the Bill absolutely impossible. It would be entirely for the Board of Works to make such rules and regulations as might be necessary for convenience in carrying out the whole scope of the Bill, and that was a matter which might safely be left to their discretion.

MR. CALDWELL admitted that the Amendment, as drafted, was rather wide, but he hoped the Solicitor General would look into the Clause which, according to its present construction, created a trust. The Commissioners would have power to make rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out sub-Section 4, but they would have no power whatever to make rules and regulations to give the public access to the rest of the grounds. He thought some form of words should be introduced to make the meaning of the Clause clear.

Amendment negatived.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time Tomorrow.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Resolved, "That the Statement of the estimated expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundat on for the year 1902–3 be approved."—(*Mr. Pretyman.*)

MR. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 12*th December*, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (WATER AND GENERAL) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2ª (The Lord Balfour), and reported from the Committee; and to be read 3ª on Monday next. (No. 200.)

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

London Water.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

VENEZUELA, No. 1 (1902).

Correspondence respecting the affairs of Venezuela.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª tomorrow.—(*The Lord Ashbourne.*) (No. 197.)

MILITIA AND YEOMANRY BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Monday next.—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*) (No. 198.)

OSBORNE ESTATE BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª tomorrow.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*) (No. 199.)

MAIL SHIPS BILL.

Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

CASE OF ALBERT TUCKER, MILITIA VOLUNTEER.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War under what circumstances Albert Tucker, a Militia volunteer, who served in South Africa, lost an arm during the war, and has been discharged as unfit for service with a good character, was deprived by a Court of Inquiry of a provisional pension of eighteenpence a day; and whether he was given an opportunity of appearing before the Court, and on what evidence the decision of the Court was based; and whether Albert Tucker is not now, and has not been for more than a year, an inmate of the workhouse at Whiston. I regret extremely that I should consider it my duty to ask this question, because, of all things in the world, I do not wish to advertise the fact that a volunteer who served in South Africa, lost an arm, and was discharged with a good character, is now, and has been for some time past, an inmate of a workhouse. I wrote three letters to the noble Earl the Under Secretary, endeavouring to obtain information, but I was unable to ascertain anything except what I already knew. What the noble Earl said—and it is perfectly true—was that this man had written to the War Office about his case, and had received an answer from the secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, saying that his case had been considered and that the decision could not be altered. I desire to know what the evidence was on which the Court of Inquiry based their decision, and as it was impossible to get it in any other way I am obliged to call attention to the matter in your Lordships' House. It does seem to me, according to the man's letter, that there has probably been a miscarriage of justice in this case. It seems that the decision of the Court of Inquiry, as communicated to this man, was that he met with his accident while absent without leave, and while attempting to enter a train when in motion, when under the influence of drink, and his name was accordingly struck off the pension list. There may be differences of opinion as to whether a man is drunk or not, and he mentions a fact which, if true, would make it certain that the Court of Inquiry had not gone carefully into his case. His story is that he did get into the train while it was in motion, but that he was not injured in getting into the train, the accident occurring some time afterwards when the engine jerked turning a curve and he was thrown out. The man's statement as to the facts of his case is as follows—

> "I was stationed at Rensburg, and was dismissed from duty at 9.30 a.m. I had only been discharged from hospital one week, where I was confined to bed for seven weeks with dysentery. I could not eat the garrison's rations, so another private and I went to Colesburg to buy some eatables. We had purchased about 30s. worth, and were returning at 6.30 p.m. perfectly sober. Afraid of being late for roll-call we got on to a passing train and had been riding about two miles when the engine jerked in turning a curve and we were thrown out. I had my arm amputated and head injured."

The complainant goes on to say—and I think there is a great deal in his contention—that—

> "It does not seem right to be cast into the workhouse worthless through serving my country in South Africa when, if the same accident had befell me in following any kind of employment at home, I should have been entitled to compensation."

I think he might have added that if he had been hurt in a railway accident at home, quite independently of following his employment, he would have been entitled to compensation. I beg to put the Question standing in my name.

*THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of HARDWICKE): The noble Lord has referred in his opening remarks to private correspondence which has passed between us, and has implied that I did not treat him with perhaps the courtesy that he expected.

LORD MONKSWELL: I only stated that you considered it your duty not to make any inquiry at all until I brought the matter before Parliament. You said the letter from the Secretary of the Commander-in-Chief absolutely precluded you from making any inquiry unless I brought the matter before Parliament.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I do not dispute the statement of the noble Lord The noble Lord did not write and ask me to make inquiries into the case, but he stated that the Commander-in-Chief had already been asked to inquire into it, had done so, and had written that there was no reason to consider that the ex-soldier Tucker had met with anything but absolute justice. I thereupon wrote to the noble Lord that it would be presumption in me to go to the Commander-in-Chief and say, "I know you have inquired into this case, but still the noble Lord is not satisfied, and expects me to act as a Court of Appeal from your decision."

LORD MONKSWELL: I wanted some information.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: That was the gist of my answer. In further correspondence the noble Lord mentioned to me that it was hard on him to have to ask questions in the dark. I understand the questions are asked in order to gain information. If all the details were known there would be no necessity to ask the question. I afterwards wrote saying I was prepared to defend the decision of the Commander-in-Chief, and that if the noble Lord brought the question up I should give him all the information possible. I consider the matter hardly sufficiently important to be brought before the attention of this House. As regards the facts of the case, the noble Lord is absolutely wrong in almost every statement he has made. The circumstances are these: Ex-soldier Tucker returned from South Africa as unfit for duty early in 1901. He presented his discharge papers to the Commissioners at Chelsea, and applied for a pension. He had no evidence to offer of inability to earn a livelihood except the fact that he had lost an arm. The Commissioners acted under Regulation number 1169, which relates to the case of men injured on duty. They assumed from his statement that he had been injured on duty, and granted him a provisional pension. The same day (February 19th, 1901) they wrote to the officer commanding the Depôt to which this soldier's regiment belonged, and asked him to make inquiries as to the truth of the man's statement that he had lost his arm in the execution of his duty. Tucker was called upon at the Depôt to write a statement of his case, and he wrote practically what the noble Lord has stated to the House. His statement, shortly, was that he got into a train, and, owing to the badly constructed line, was thrown out, with the result that his arm was broken and his head injured. That statement was forwarded to the officer commanding the regiment in South Africa, and that officer was asked to return the statement with such comments as he chose to make, together with any further evidence concerning the injury this man had received. Two months afterwards the statement was returned by the officer commanding the regiment, accompanied by another very important document—namely, the Report of a Court of Inquiry held at Arundel in June, 1900, a few days after the accident which we are now discussing occurred. That Report disclosed the fact that Tucker and two other soldiers left their camp at Arundel in June, 1900, without leave, and proceeded to Colesburg. They started to return to camp the same afternoon, and on reaching a siding on the railway sat down to rest. One of the trio said he should "go home," but Tucker and the other man said they would remain. The man went back to the camp and reported to the sergeant that he had left Tucker and another man on the railway. The sergeant proceeded along the line and found Tucker on the railway with his hand crushed and his head injured. The other man was also injured, but not seriously. A passing train was stopped and they were put into it and taken to the hospital. I may mention that when the sergeant picked these two men up he found with them three empty whiskey bottles, and a fourth which was partly empty. The report of the Doctor at the hospital was to the effect that Tucker was obviously suffering from an excess of alcohol. When Tucker was sufficiently recovered, a Court of Inquiry was held, and the statement he made before the Court was absolutely contrary in every respect to the statement he made to the Commissioners at Chelsea. He did state that he was sober. He also stated that the train was passing slowly, that he was late, and that, wishing to get back to camp, he tried to jump into the train and remembered nothing more till he found himself in the hospital. The Court of Inquiry heard the evidence of Tucker, of the doctor, and of the sergeant. I think your Lordships will admit that the Commissioners at Chelsea, on receiving this information were perfectly entitled to say that the man had received his pension under false pretences, and that it was to cease on that day.

LORD MONKSWELL: I am not prepared to deny the conclusion at which the noble Earl has arrived. If he had only told me one-half of what he has told the House, I should not have troubled your Lordships with the matter.

LONDON WATER BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, I think I shall best consult the convenience of the House if I make no speech at this stage. The Bill is a long and complicated one, and I do not know that I could say anything about it which would be new to noble Lords who take an interest in it, without going into a mass of history and detail which would take some time, and would probably weary your Lordships. I think it would be most for the convenience of the House that I should defer any remarks I may have to make until I see to what points objection is raised, when I will do my best to reply. I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2a.—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, it is at least as irksome to me as it must be to you that I should continually rise at this Table to find fault with the proposals of His Majesty's Government, and yet I do so from no captious or carping spirit, because I really do believe that, however good the objects of these proposals may be, the methods adopted to carry them out are little likely to prove successful. I suppose there must almost necessarily be some unreality in debates in this House. Either we have a small attendance, or else we are a small body on these Benches and we find ourselves surrounded by serried bands of those who disagree with us. But it does not seem to me that His Majesty's Government have done much to add to the unreality and hollowness of the debates in this House.

I think that if your Lordships will consider the mere occurrences of the last ten days, you will admit that this House has not been treated by His Majesty's Government with that respect which its position and its dignity deserve. Take the history of the last few days. In the early hours of Thursday of last week, an Education Bill of immense importance, a Bill which your Lordships were well able to debate, and in which you were intensely interested, was read a third time in the House of Commons, and brought up for First Reading in your Lordships' House, the Second Reading following not many hours after it was read a first time. The Second Reading debate was limited to two days, and I think the speeches that have been delivered in Committee since show that that debate might well have been protracted another two days to great advantage. Within three days the Committee stage was entered upon, and that stage was pressed through this House by means of long and unusual sittings on days when your Lordships do not usually meet. Exactly the same course has been taken with regard to this Bill. Again, in the early hours of Thursday, a Bill is read a third time in the House of Commons—read a third time before it had even been printed in its completed form. Amendments of an important character had been introduced into the Bill on Report, and yet the Bill when it was read a third time in the House of Commons, did not even present to that House the appearance it now presents to your Lordships. This Bill in its present form was not delivered to us till late last night, and I only saw it with the Amendments introduced in the House of Commons on Report when I arrived home late last night after the sitting of this House. I ask, is that the proper way to treat the House of Lords? I appeal to the noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack, who is the natural guardian of the rights and privileges of this House, and who, so far as I have been able to notice, has always been only too ready to maintain and to assert them, to join in the protest I make against the treatment your Lordships have received, and use that great influence which he must have in the counsels of the Party to which he belongs to prevent us being treated again in a manner which is not worthy or proper. So much for the procedure which has taken place with regard to this Bill.

I come, now, to the Bill itself, and let me at once say I am glad it is unnecessary for me to go in detail into the ancient history of the measure. We are all to a large extent agreed on the subject of the Bill. I think we are all agreed as to the necessity of purchase. It is rather on the terms of purchase, and as to the conditions on which the water supply of London is to be managed, that we differ. I think that this Bill now does present a much improved appearance compared to that which it presented when first introduced. What with the labours of the Committee and the House of Commons the Bill has been greatly improved, and I do not think that within the Bill, so far as the provisions of purchase and so forth are concerned, there would be any fair ground for me to move the rejection of the Bill on the Second Reading. The only thing that I consider justifies me in this course is the constitution of the authority which is to work the Bill. But, at the same time, do not let the interpretation be read into my words that I consider the provisions of the Bill, so far as purchase is concerned, to be perfect. I think that just as in the case of the bargain with regard to the Education Bill between State and Church, the presumption of which is all in favour of the Church, so in the case of this Bill a bargain has been struck for London, in which again the presumption seems to be all in favour of the Water Companies. I will give the House a little proof to support that assertion—proof taken from the money article of *The Times* of yesterday. In that article appeared the following—

> "Among water stocks Lambeth rose 10 to 315, East London 9½ to 235, and Southwark and Vauxhall D 7½ to 200, and there was also a rise of 5 each in Kent to 305, Lambeth 7½ per cent. to 225, New River to 400, West Middlesex to 300, and Southwark and Vauxhall to 207½; of 2 each in ditto B Debenture to 98, West Middlesex 3 per cent. to 98, Grand Junction A to 116½, and ditto D to 102½; of 1½ in ditto C to 54½; and 1 each in ditto B to 58 and West Middlesex 4½ per cent. to 142½."

You will see there that really in the whole mass of the water stocks on Wednesday there was a jump of a most considerable character, showing, at any rate, that the market thought the Water Companies and the owners of water stocks were not likely to suffer very much from the bargain. It so happened that I had to go towards the City yesterday morning, and out of curiosity I thought I would ask what about water stocks, and I caused an inquiry to be made of a broker. And what was the answer? Why, that they were not in the market; that there were no sellers. I agree that this is the time for holders of water stocks to retain them with a view to liquidation under this Bill.

Now to come to the particular point on which I am going to ask your Lordships to refuse a Second Reading to this Bill, namely, the constitution of the authority under the Bill. My first proposition is that a reasonable common-sense proposal would have been to have made the London County Council the authority to purchase the Water Companies and to administer the water supply for the benefit of the people of London. I have, I think, high authority for that view. Viscount Ridley's Committee in 1891 recommended that course, and I think London has great reason to regret the fall of the Government of 1895, which involved the dropping of the London County Council's Bills of that year. But I will quote an authority which will perhaps have greater weight with your Lordships than that of Viscount Ridley's Committee—the authority of no less a person than the late Prime Minister. Lord Salisbury said—

> "I am told that there are certain subjects that it is necessary that a central body should conduct and control. I quite admit there are such subjects. They are principally connected with the main drainage of the Metropolis, with the management of the river which flows through this city, and, if you will, with the water supply; in fact, with those matters which depend upon the natural law that water will run down and will not run up. All these things which depend upon those natural laws are necessarily brought under a central management, but if that management were duplicated or multiplied it would cause confusion."

The proposal that the duty of managing the water supply for London should be given to the London County Council is one that commands the precedent of almost all other boroughs throughout the country. There are in Great Britain 931 county and municipal boroughs which have a municipal water supply, and of these only thirteen have a joint authority of the nature of that proposed under the Bill, and I believe that in almost all these thirteen cases the joint authority is not for the purpose of distribution of water, but for the provision of particular water sheds between different consumers. In the case of no less than sixty-six of these municipal boroughs, Parliament has passed private Bills transferring the water supply from private companies to municipalities. But then it is said that the London County Council is not a proper authority, that it is an administrative County Council and therefore does not stand in the position of the borough municipalities who administer the water supply in the country. That is a proposition which I take complete exception to. The London County Council is essentially the municipality of greater London and it is also the direct successor of the Metropolitan Board of Works. It had to take over its duties of all sorts, and this new authority which you are proposing has in it the very same elements of failure which led to the death of the Metropolitan Board of Works.

Then it is said that the London County Council cannot give the necessary time for the management of the water supply, and that its time is already fully taken up. My answer to that is that really and truly all these various proposals which are made which give to the London County Council large representation on the particular Board involve as much time to the members of the County Council as if the control were given over to them entirely. You propose under this Bill to give fourteen seats on the new Board to the London County Council. In the same way Lord James's Bill proposed fourteen members, and Viscount Llandaff's Commission ten members of the London County Council. In the ordinary case, supposing the water supply was transferred out and out to the London County Council, you would probably find that it would be administered by eighteen or twenty men at the outside, so that there would not be any more burden laid on the County Councils proposed to be laid on them by this Bill. Then it is said that the County Council is not a suitable body because it does not represent the outside area, and that you must include in your London water scheme a large area outside, which does not come under the jurisdiction of the London County Council at all. I quite admit that that is true, but London is no singular case in this respect. You find the same thing throughout the length and breath of the land. Let me take a model municipality, one that should recommend itself to noble Lords opposite as having been brought into activity and life by one of their own colleagues—I mean the municipality of Birmingham. The inside area there consists of 19·9 square miles, with a population of 522,183 and a ratable value of £2,735,426; and the outside area is of 112 square miles, with a population of 252,462 and a ratable value of £1,182,417. Yet the municipality of Birmingham controls the water supply for the whole area without any representation from the outside area. The case of London is almost identical. The population of the London water area is 5,500,000, and the population of the County Council area 4,232,000; the ratable value of the London County Council area is £30,000,000, and that of the outside area £11,745,000. It seems to me that the two cases run on very parallel lines, and what works well in Birmingham would also be found to work extremely well so far as London is concerned. You will find exactly the same state of things in Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Bradford, Leicester—I could name a hundred towns who all supply water on exactly the same grounds. The fact of the matter is, the Government are afraid of the London County Council. They mistrust it, and will not give it its natural work, either alone or in combination with other bodies represented in proportion to their interests. Let it be so. Lord Balfour, on the Committee, ruled that the acceptance of the Bill on Second Reading precluded the suggestion of any second authority in the form of the Board. But if you are going to have a Board, let it be a practical Board of moderate size. Let it be a Board in the nature of a board of directors, a business body, rather than something in the nature of a deliberative assembly or a debating society. I am quite ready to accept a Board if that Board is a sensible one.

Again, I say the authorities in favour of a moderate sized Board give you an absolutely answerable case. I cannot conceive how my noble friend will be able to advance an argument against what I am going to put before him now. In the first place I will go back to the proposals of Lord Cross in 1878-80. He then proposed a Board of 21 members. Viscount Ridley's Committee in 1891 rejected Trusts of 39 and 50 in favour of the London County Council itself. Lord James's Bill in 1896 proposed a Board of 33, on which the London County Council had 14 representatives. Viscount Llandaff's Commission proposed a Board of 30, on which the London County Council was to be represented by 10 members. It is a curious thing that all the distinguished persons, whose names I have quoted in respect of these Commissions and Bills, are noblemen who have held the highest position in His Majesty's present Government. It seems to me that the present proposal must be a fantastic emanation from the Local Government Board and the brain of Mr. Walter Long. I claim that the whole weight of opinion of the Committee of the present year was not originally in favour of the proposals of the Government, but in favour of my contention. I am afraid I must trouble the House for a moment with the proceedings of the Joint Committee of the two Houses which sat upstairs.

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: The proposal to have the County Council as the authority was put and unanimously rejected by the Joint Committee, not on my ruling, but on the merits.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: I have abandoned the case of County Council. I have simply thought that it was a fair thing to state it, and I am only arguing now for a common sense Board instead of an impracticable, fantastic one. The Bill was read a second time in both Houses—rather an unusual procedure I believe—and was sent to a Committee of ten, consisting of five Members from each House. There was some discussion about the appointment of that Committee, and it was decided by all parties that it should be an impartial Committee without any party element, that it should be struck in the fashion of a Private Bill Committee, and that its procedure should follow those lines. I may say at once that I was perfectly satisfied with the composition of the Committee, and I bring no shadow of a charge of any party animus having been found amongst its Members. The Committee met, and very early in its proceedings passed a Resolution deleting the representation of the Metropolitan Boroughs from Schedule III, and of the urban districts and boroughs in the counties of Essex, Kent, Middlesex, and Surrey, other than the borough of West Ham, and requesting the promoters to prepare a fresh schedule, on the scheme indicated by this decision, for a Water Board consisting of about thirty-five members, instead of sixty-eight, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman, but without giving a majority on the Board to the representatives of any one county. This resolution was carried by six votes to three, one Member of the Lower House not being present on that occasion. I am afraid the promoters of the Bill were rather taken aback by this early decision of the Committee. At any rate, they quickly appeared by counsel and drew a most gruesome picture of what was going to happen in consequence of this resolution. They said the decision of the Committee had been considered by the Government and received by them with profound regret. I suppose the promoters of the Bill had a right to use all the powers they are allowed before the Committee, and I do not hesitate to say they used whatever powers they had to the full. The result of their argument was that fresh evidence was laid on the subject from both sides. Then, my noble friend, Viscount Llandaff, I think, did not show himself quite so astute as usual, for, instead of leaving it to the opponents of the former resolution to move that it should be rescinded, he moved that the former resolution should be adhered to. It certainly does seem to me that that was a most unnecessary thing to do. The Committee had come to a decision by six to three, and why it should be necessary afterwards to move that the resolution be adhered to I cannot conceive. The noble Viscount did not seem to have been quite sufficiently instructed in the methods of transacting business in your Lordships' House, for the result was an equality of votes on this motion to adhere to the resolution that had been arrived at in April, and it was then decided that this equality of votes caused the rescission of the former resolution. I think it was an extraordinary conclusion to come to.

When the schedule was reached which dealt with the question of the Metropolitan boroughs, and which enacted the inclusion of representatives of those boroughs on the new Water Board, we had another case of the rule of your Lordships' House being used, I do not say *ultra vires* in any sense, but at any rate, as I think, to defeat the very objects for which your Lordships made the rule and act upon it. When the schedule was before the Committee, the Chairman, instead of putting the question, "That this be the schedule of the Bill," put the question in this form—"That the schedule be disagreed with." Having put the question in that form, one would have imagined that that was the view of the Chairman of the Committee, but when the vote was taken he voted against his own motion, and by that means an equality of votes was secured, which was interpreted as negativing the motion, and therefore causing the schedule to stand. As I understand, the practice of your Lordships' House is founded on the maxim, *semper præsumitur pro negante*, and that the object of that is to give an opportunity for consideration. But on both of these occasions no opportunity was given for reconsideration. On the contrary, the matter was decided off-hand, and therefore I say that the interpretation put upon this practice of the House by the Committee and by the Lord Chairman is one that does not fall into line with the rule of the House. I have argued that all authority, including the Committee upstairs, is in favour of a comparatively small body, not exceeding thirty-five in number, including the chairman and vice chairman. But the authority proposed to be set up in this Bill is to consist of sixty-eight members. How is that body composed? On that enormous body there will be twenty-nine representatives of the Metropolitan boroughs. If I remember rightly, the total number of electors in the Metropolitan boroughs is something like 650,000. The ordinary ward contains on the average about 1,000 voters. These twenty-nine men who are going to sit on this Board will only directly represent the average thousand electors each in his own ward; that is to say, out of the 650,000 voters you will only have a small proportion, namely about 30,000, brought directly in contact with these representatives.

There is another astonishing thing, to my mind, to which I should like to call attention. As I understand, a concession was made in the other House the other night by providing that when one of these representatives ceased to be a member of the borough authority, he would cease to be a member of the Water Board. I thought, when I saw that that concession had been made, that it was a very proper one, and one for which there was a great deal to be said, and I still think so. But as it is, as I understand, within the power of the borough authority to appoint a man who is not a member of the authority at all, that concession seems to me a very infinitesimal one. After all, you have these sixty-eight members elected by seventy-eight distinct authorities. These distinct authorities have some 3,000 members among them. Some of these gentlemen do not even represent single authorities, but groups of authorities. I will take one instance. One member is sent by the councils of the urban districts of Brentford, Hampton, Hampton Wick, Hanwell, Heston and Isleworth, Sunbury, Teddington, and Twickenham. Each one of the councils of these individual places has to appoint a small Committee, and each of these Committees has to meet together to choose the person who is to be sent to represent them on the Water Board. This is an instance of indirect representation run mad. There is no representation in it left to speak of. You will have this enormous body of sixty-eight members, and you will have on it Progressives and Moderates. You will have debates and Party divisions, and all the other consequences of a big deliberative assembly; and yet what are the duties of the Water Board? It seems to me they are few and simple. Their first business is to purchase the Water Companies' undertakings. That is a very transient duty, one that will be quickly accomplished, and one in which they will be largely assisted by the Board of Arbitration, who really have the settling of the terms on which the undertakings of the Water Companies are taken over. Then they will have the permanent duty of supplying London with sufficient and wholesome water. I do not think that is a duty which will be performed by long debates; it is exactly a duty which would be best performed by a body of men, small in number, but of a thoroughly businesslike character, like a good board of directors. The third duty which they would have to decide would be from what quarter additional supplies should be brought, if it is found, as I think will be most probable, that the supply from the Thames will not be sufficient for future needs. I do not think that need be a question for great debate. It is rather one to be decided by the expert, by the engineer, by the geologist, the statistician. The reason why I ask your Lordships to reject this Bill is that the new authority will be unwieldy and without cohesion, will have unlimited powers of raising money, will be only indirectly responsible to the ratepayers, and will not have the necessary experience to qualify it for the work entrusted to it. I beg to move the Motion standing in my name.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert 'this day four weeks.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, as I indicated to your Lordships a short time ago, I will do my best to meet the criticisms and objections which the noble Lord opposite has passed upon this Bill. In any case, I shall not shrink from discussing with him the procedure of the Committee upstairs. I am relieved from going much into the history of the past transactions in regard to this matter, because the noble Lord passed lightly over them, and especially there is no conflict between us as to the fact that the time has now arrived when the water supply of the Metropolis ought to be in the hands of a public body. At the commencement of his speech the noble Lord made a general complaint of the treatment of this House by the Government, not only in regard to the Education Bill, but in regard also to the Bill which is now before your Lordships. So far as the former of these two Bills is concerned, I can only say that I believe the arrangement arrived at was one by mutual agreement for the convenience of the House as a whole, and in regard to this Bill I really cannot see that the noble Lord has any cause for complaint. The House was made acquainted early in the Spring with the provisions of the Bill, and it consented to the Bill being read a second time *pro forma* and referred it to a Committee upstairs. In these circumstances it does not seem to me unusual that the first reading of the Bill brought from the other House should be regarded as a purely formal stage, and one which no one could object to being taken under the circumstances in which this Bill was taken. I confess, after the statement of the noble Lord that to a large extent he agreed with the Bill, I am surprised he should have thought it worth while to submit a motion for its rejection at this stage. I never supposed he would like the constitution of the Board, but I thought that that would be a point which he would raise in Committee, and I still think it would be more appropriately raised there than by a motion for the rejection of the Bill. But I cannot see that, under all the circumstances, this House has been in any way badly treated. I venture to put this further point. If the Education Bill and this Bill had not been taken now it would have necessitated the prolongation of the Session over the Christmas holidays and the New Year, because I do not think your Lordships would have liked, on the plea of want of time, to nullify the whole of the laborious proceedings which have been gone through in regard to both these Bills in another place and upstairs during many months past. I maintain that on balance of convenience to this House and of public advantage the course taken by the Government is one which has overwhelming considerations to justify it.

I will deal at once with one point to which the noble Lord referred early in his speech. He made great play with the fact that the stock of the Water Companies had gone up greatly in price during the past few days. I do not know whether the noble Lord is aware—he certainly did not tell the House—that that rise in price will have no sort of effect on the terms which the Water Companies will get under the arbitration.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I did not suggest it.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: It is perfectly obvious, because, if the noble Lord will refer to the 8th sub-Section of Clause 23, he will find that there is a distinct provision to this effect, that the Court of Arbitration shall not make any allowance for compulsory sale, and shall not take into account any enhancement or depreciation of the market value of any stock or shares of the company which, in the opinion of the Court, was caused by, or resulted from, the passing, or the anticipation of the passing, of this Act; but the Court may make such allowance as they think just for recoupment of any loss of interest pending reinvestment, as well as for the cost of reinvestment. That is a distinct direction to the Court of Arbitration to take, as one of their bases, at any rate, the value of the stock and shares of the companies as they stood anterior to the introduction of the Bill.

The main point to which the noble Lord directed his speech was as to the Board which is to be constituted the water authority for the Metropolis in the future. I venture to lay down, as an axiom, that that authority must include representatives, both of the county of London and of the outside areas; that it must be representative in its character, and that the administrative county of London must have a large preponderating majority upon the Board. A very few figures will justify that statement. The London water area is 620 square miles; of that area 121 square miles are in the county of London. The population of the whole area is 6,250,000, of whom 4,500,000 are within the administrative county of London. The ratable value of the whole area is £50,500,000, of which the county of London represents £40,000,000, the outside area representing the remaining £10,500,000. The plan adopted in the Bill is to give the representation which is due to London partly to the County Council and partly to the sanitary authorities of the Metropolis, including the boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London. The County Councils outside London are also represented. The noble Lord adversely commented on the fact that some of these authorities had to be grouped. If they had not been grouped the body would have been out of all proportion as a possible body in the matter of size, and I am sure the outside bodies would rather have one representative shared with others than to be without representation at all. The noble Lord, I think, wished to convey to the House that the weight of authority, not only of Committees and Commissions, but of experience in other matters, tended to show that on both these grounds the County Council of London ought to be made the water authority for the area.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I did not in the least say that. I quoted two authorities in favour of the County Council being the authority—namely, Viscount Ridley's Committee and Lord Salisbury. The other quotations from authorities which I gave, were, undoubtedly, all in favour of boards made up partly of the London County Council and partly of the Councils representing the outside areas in each case forming a small body of from thirty to thirty-five members.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am quite aware that later in his speech the noble Lord said he abandoned the case for the London County Council, but he certainly quoted the authority of Viscount Ridley's Committee in 1891 and said he could quote a hundred boroughs to show that the councils of those boroughs were the water authority and had dealings with outside areas. These are the two points with which I wish to deal. I venture to say that of all the Commissions and Committees which have sat on this question, the Committee of 1891, presided over by my noble friend Viscount Ridley, is the only one which can be quoted in favour of constituting the County Council the water authority.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Hear, hear!

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Everybody did not know its County Council as well then as it knows it now. But I do not wish to get into any recrimination as to the tendency of the London County Council. I say, quite frankly, that I have had to deal with it on more than one occasion. I have had to deal with it on the Commission of 1892, on the Joint Committee and on the Rating Commission, and I have never, either in public or private, failed to bear testimony to the ability with which its cases are got up and put before the tribunal; but I think that in many matters it has taken a more partisan political line than is altogether desirable; and it did this from the very first, because, although the earliest election for the County Council was run fairly, as far as the Party to which I belong was concerned, on non-Party lines, the narrow majority obtained by the Party opposite was used to put in the whole of the Aldermen they were entitled to elect. I am not going further into that matter. The Bill of 1896 provided a mixed body of about thirty for London Water. It was opposed, and most severely criticised as to its composition, not only by the noble Lord who has just spoken, but by Lord Monkswell and the noble Earl now on the Front Cross Bench (Lord Rosebery), and it did not go further, partly owing to the opposition of the outside areas, who did not wish to be associated with the London County Council in a body of that kind, and partly because the London County Council had obtained agreements with those bodies for the severance of the works. On that point the Government of the day appointed a Commission, presided over by my noble friend Viscount Llandaff, and his Commission reported distinctly against the policy of severance, and also recommended a body of about thirty—not the County Council; and it made this recommendation besides, that that body was to be a body of paid experts. That proposal has not found favour with any one, and I do not think it has been ever proposed seriously, either in or out of Parliament. The Joint Committee over which I had the honour to preside this year was unanimously against making the County Council the water authority.

The noble Lord made play with the precedents of other large cities. He quoted the case of Birmingham, Glasgow, and other places, and said that the policy of Parliament was to give the control of the water supply to the central area, and leave it to deal with the outside areas. But there are two great differences between those cases and the case of London. Without exception, before

Parliament has given such authority to the central area, that area has come to Parliament with agreements on the part of the authorities which it proposed to supply with water, and therefore Parliament has been dealing with a matter which has been the subject of agreement, and that is not so in the case of London and the other areas here. There are also a larger number of other authorities concerned, and it would be not only from the reason I have given, but also from the magnitude of the case, a new departure if Parliament had given the London County Council power to deal with the outside area in this way. In all these cases, again, the water supply has been obtained from a great distance—Birmingham from Wales, Liverpool and Manchester from the Cumberland Hills, and Glasgow from Loch Katrine; while the London water supply is got from a variety of sources, some of them within the very districts of those local authorities which are to be represented on the Board. I pass on to the next point. The noble Earl was very severe in his criticism of the size of the Board. He said what he would like to have seen established was a practical body, and that this Board was much too large for its work. Well, that is a very newly-found doctrine on the part even of the London County Council, for I would remind the noble Lord that the County Council themselves have introduced Bills within the last few sessions of Parliament proposing an authority of forty-seven, forty-eight and forty-nine. There is no difference whatever in principle between a body of forty-seven and one of sixty-three or sixty-five, because, in either case, the Board must work through committees. Therefore it is too late for the County Council to object to this Board on account of its size. The reason why the Government have adopted this proposal is that they recognise that London must have a predominating voice. You can only give London a predominating voice in one of two ways—either in the way we have suggested, or by giving the predominating voice to the County Council itself; and for some reason or other there is hardly a single outside authority which is willing to join a Board with the London County Council in a predominating majority upon it. Therefore, if London is to have a predominating majority, the representation of London must be divided between the London County Council and those other sanitary authorities mentioned in the Bill. These authorities have been formed since Lord Llandaff's Commission reported, and I think it is good for the corporate life of these boroughs that they should have an interest in this large and important subject of supplying London with water.

It has been suggested that the Water Board will not have enough work to occupy its energy. I venture to point out that at present the water supply of London is managed by eight different Boards, with a considerable number of directors; and it was given in evidence before my Committee upstairs that such a public authority as this must be able to man a very considerable number of committees. I have made a list of the committees which such a body as this would have to work through. There would have to be a Supply Committee, a Rating Committee, a Works Committee, a Stores Committee, a Parliamentary Committee, a Finance Committee, and probably a General Purposes Committee; and I venture to say that this body is not one bit too large effectively to man those committees. Therefore, I sincerely hope your Lordships will not be led away by the noble Lord opposite, but will agree that though this Board, as proposed by the Government, may not be ideal in constitution or numbers, still, of a choice of all the alternatives that are before the Government, it is the best that can be devised, having regard to the wishes of the authorities concerned and to the due representation of such an immense population and ratable value. It has been objected by the noble Lord opposite that the Borough Councils may send as their representatives on the Water Board men who are not members of their own bodies.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: What I said was that I understood it had been granted as a concession that when a man who was sent by a Borough Council to represent it on the Water Board ceased to be a member of the Borough Council, he ceased also to be a member of the Water Board. I said I did not think that concession amounted to much when I had since found out that Borough Councils could elect men outside their own bodies to the Water Board.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Surely the arrangement which the noble Lord has correctly stated is extremely wise and judicious. It is one of the complaints against the Borough Councils that they will not be able to find among their own body people of position to send to represent them. We are, therefore, given the choice of selecting a gentleman from outside. If they wish to have an outside representative, they will appoint an outside representative; if they wish to have a representative from their own body, they will choose him; and if their desire is to have a representative from their own body, surely it is fair that when he ceases to belong to that body he should cease to belong to the Water Board. If the Borough Council is satisfied with him, they can re-elect him. The arrangement in the Bill gives the maximum of freedom and choice to the Borough Councils, and I hope it will not be altered.

As to the question of the procedure in the Joint Committee, I say frankly and at once that I have not a word of complaint to make of the manner in which the noble Lord brought it before the House. I admit that it is not surprising that the procedure should have astonished some of those who are not accustomed to the practice of your Lordships' House. But I can prove to your Lordships that the course which was taken was exactly in accordance with the precedents which govern this case. In the first place, the situation in which we were placed was a very novel and somewhat difficult one. The Government were the promoters of the Bill. I was asked to take the Chair on the Committee, and the noble Lord will bear me out that the position was not one of my own seeking. I took it because I believed that it was the generally-expressed wish that I should do so. The situation, although novel, was not altogether without precedent. There was a precedent in the case of the Railway Rates and Charges Provisional Orders, which were promoted at the instance of the Board of Trade, which, curiously enough, I was then representing in this House. Those Orders were referred also to a Joint Committee upstairs. We resolved, as I think we were bound to resolve, to treat this as a private Bill touching private rights, and to frame our procedure as nearly as possible upon the well-known procedure of a Private Bill Committee. But at the outset we were met with this difficulty—that to this Bill there was no preamble on which the preliminary general discussion could take place. The discussion as to whether or not a preamble is proved ranges over an infinite variety of subjects and over every detail of the Bill. You can raise any question about any Clause on the preamble discussion, and the decision is given that the preamble is proved in respect of such-and-such Clauses and not in respect of others, or is proved as a whole. We had to evolve, as I have said, our own procedure, and the way in which we did it, in order to get a preamble discussion, was to take groups of the Clauses which raised kindred issues, and we had a discussion upon them by the unanimous agreement of the Committee, and with the entire approval of all the parties who appeared before us. The first of these discussions embraced the Clauses up to Clause 18, and we decided that in their general structure the case for the Clauses was made out, and then we went on to the next group, which had reference to the authority. Upon that I again proposed a general approval of the provisions of the Bill. An Amendment was moved and carried to delete certain words from the Bill. I am not responsible for the form in which that Amendment was presented. It was an Amendment proposed by the hostile element in the Committee, and was carried by them in their own words and in their own way. I am not responsible for that. I think it was a wrong form to use, because they arranged to delete certain words. All that ought to have been said was that when they came to that part of the Bill in detail such-and-such provisions would be altered. They went on to give directions, which was probably perfectly right, to bring up Clauses involving other arrangements. As the noble Lord has said, a further discussion took place, with the result that one member who was before absent was present, and another who was before in the majority changed his mind and voted on the same side as I did myself. The noble Lord commented on the simplicity with which the noble Viscount behind me was led into moving a certain Motion. I will not conceal the fact that that was practically a matter of arrangement. For this reason: we could only give a decision, and if that decision had been given that we adhered to the previous decision without any explanation, we should have been misleading all the parties before us, because by that time it was known that when we came to the schedule the question would be put according to the practice of Joint Committees, and in a different way from that in which it is put in Private Bill Committees. I said to the Committee that if the decision went out without any explanation of that kind we should be misleading all parties, and it would not be fair. On that the noble Viscount consented, fully knowing what the result would be, to move the Motion in the way he did, and it was only anticipating what the ultimate decision would be that the Question was on that occasion put in that particular way.

I should like to go a little further into this question of procedure. It must be obvious to everybody concerned that the decision in the case of equality of votes is, and must often be, determined by the mode of putting the question. All that Sir Erskine May says on this subject is this:—

> "In case of an equality of votes the not-contents have it, and the question is declared to have been resolved in the negative. . . . The effect of this rule is altered where the House is sitting judicially, as the question is then put for reversing and not for affirming, and consequently if the numbers are equal the House refuses to reverse the judgment, and an order is made that the judgment of the Court below be affirmed."

This method, therefore, of putting the question in this case is designed to ensure the desired result—namely, that the judgment shall not be changed without a majority against it. In the case of a Private Bill Committee the difficulty does not, and cannot, arise, because its numbers are always uneven, unless the parties agree by consent to go on with a smaller number. But in the case of joint Committees there is always an equal number of Members of both Houses, and the numbers are always even, and it follows, therefore, the Committees being always equal, that there is always a liability of an equality of votes occurring. Of how little there is in this I may perhaps be pardoned for giving an example. If you have a Bill in which the word "expedient" is found, and if in a Joint Committee, or any Committee with an equal number, it was moved to insert the word "not" before expedient, on an equality of votes the Amendment would be lost. But if the Motion was to leave out the word "expedient" for the purpose of inserting "not expedient," a different way of putting the question, the Amendment would be carried and the Bill altered, though no other word would be insisted. Therefore, much depends on the accidental way in which the question is put—upon the ingenuity of the mover, or perhaps, the noble Lord would say, the ingenuity of the Chairman. But the matter does not rest there. The course which I took was absolutely according to the settled practice and precedents of Joint Committees. That practice was made for the first time in the case of the Duke of Richmond's Committee on Railway Rates and Charges, to which I have already alluded. They were equal. I was present on more than one occasion when they divided equally, and they first left out words upon the Motion that such-and-such words stand part of the Bill. Then, when it came to inserting other words, they came to the deadlock, because the voting was equal and the words were not inserted.

It was decided by the Duke of Richmond's Committee that the principle of the ancient rule was best carried out by holding that the Bill as referred to the Committee after Second Reading "held the field," and must not be amended without a majority against it. Through all their procedure subsequently they acted on that rule, and the question was put that the Amendment be agreed to and not that the word be left out, and if there was an equality of votes the Amendment was not agreed to and the Bill remained as it stood. That practice was further carried out by Lord Cross's Committee on electric lighting. I have the precedents here. Lord Cross's Joint Committee followed the precedent of the Duke of Richmond's Joint Committee, and I, as Chairman of the Joint Committee upstairs, did no more than follow the precedent of these two Joint Committees. I maintain that in doing that I was absolutely right, and that if I had taken any other course I would have been wrong. I know quite well that if the noble Lord had been inclined to speak of this in a hostile spirit he might have suggested that I abused my position as Chairman of the Committee and a member of the Government for the purpose of arriving at this decision. If I had done so I should have been unworthy to hold the position of Chairman of any Committee. The action I took was in accordance with the two precedents I have given, and, in the circumstances, I do not think I could have acted differently. I am sure your Lordships will agree with me that after the criticisms which the noble Lord has passed, and the criticisms which had been made outside I could not have done less than take this opportunity of justifying the course I took, and I sincerely hope your Lordships will persevere with the Bill as it stands.

Earl CARRINGTON: My Lords, having taken great interest in this question in the London County Council for a great many years I desire to say a few words on this Bill. The noble Lord opposite began his speech in that good-tempered, straightforward manner which is his distinguishing characteristic by saying that he would be able to make a very good case for the Bill on its merits. Well, I regret to say I can hardly agree with him, because he has been in the first place perfectly unable to show what I imagine would have been the most important thing to prove. namely, that London either wants or likes the huge Water Trust which the Government are creating. The noble Lord has not in any sort of way tried to prove that the Bill is in sympathy with the wishes, aspirations and hopes of the enormous number of our fellow countrymen who live in the County of London. We have heard a great deal about the Borough Councils, and I dare say we shall be told that they are very anxious to come on the Water Board. The Borough Councils were created in 1899, and this Bill was bought forward in 1901, but we have not heard, directly or indirectly, from these transformed vestries that they desire to do so. I admit that the London Members of Parliament voted for the Bill, but it must be remembered that the last general election was fought in London only on the question of the war. No domestic questions at all were brought forward when Conservative members were returned with very few exceptions all over London. But when the Government went to war with the School Board and the London County Council, which, I venture to say, has gained the respect of the vast majority of the people of London, very different results were shown, not only in the election of the London School Board in 1900, but also in the election of the London County Council in 1901, which was fought on the housing question and the water question. That shows conclusively that the domestic policy of the Government with regard to London was not the success the Government seemed to think it was.

The noble Lord opposite made a statement with regard to the London County Council which I must ask the House to forgive me for alluding to. He said his own objection, and I suppose he meant the objection of the Government, to the County Council was that it was run on Party and political lines. I must remind the House that from 1895 to 1898 the members of the Council were absolutely equal—there were the same number of Moderates and Progressives—and Lord Onslow, who at that time led the Moderate Party with great success, brought this question of the Water Trust forward in the Council and carried his point by a majority of one. Lord James's Water Bill was introduced in 1896, and though it passed easily through all its stages in this House it was never proposed at all in the House of Commons. The next year Lord Salisbury made his famous attack on the London County Council in his Albert Hall speech, when he advised the Moderates to capture all the seats on the County Council. London took up the challenge, and the great battle was fought in the following year. As a result, the Moderates, if I may venture to use the expression, were absolutely "snowed under," and at the present moment, out of a membership of 137 there are only 34 Moderates on the Local Government Committee. Eight noble Lords resigned their seats on the Council, and the Moderate Party, to an extent, threw up the sponge. All the County Councils, including the London County Council, are the children of a Unionist Government, but the London County Council grew too fast, and became, I am bound to confess, a little rebellious. The Government then determined that this child perhaps wanted smacking, and during the last few years they have treated the London County Council with what I might be allowed to call "Penruddockian severity." The first punishment that the London County Council received was in 1899, when the Government turned the vestries into Borough Councils in order to play them against the London County Council whenever it would be necessary to assert what the noble Lord opposite called London's predominant authority. The second smack was when the Government appointed the Joint Committee, which was so ably presided over by the noble Lord opposite. Mr. Walter Long said on March 3rd of this year that the Committee would consider the number of governing bodies in the freeest possible manner. Lord Salisbury said the same thing. But what happened? The Bill followed the ordinary course of private Bill legislation. When the Committee came to Schedule III. containing the Borough Councils, Lord Crewe moved that the Schedule stand part of the Bill. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, as has been said, refused to put it in that form, and insisted that the Motion should take the form that the Schedule be disagreed with. The votes were equal. The Chairman declared that the Motion was carried, and the Government won all along the line, the Schedule standing as it was proposed. What Lord Balfour had described as "the desired result" was arrived at, and, so far as the Government was concerned, all went well. I understand that Lord Balfour relied on the judicial practice of this House, and the custom when the House sits as a judicial body is always to put the question in this way, that the judgment of the Court below be reversed. I have always understood that the principle of the House of Lords is that no legislation should pass unless a majority of the House approved of it. This is carried to its logical conclusion by the fact that the Chairman of Committees in this House has no second vote, though the Chairman in the House of Commons has. The House of Lords, as Court of Appeal, acts differently, and what it has to decide is whether or not the decision of the lower Court is to be upheld. If the votes are equal the decision of the lower court is upheld. Why? Because of the votes of the majority of the lower Court. I suppose they put all the judges together and the majority have it.

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: The votes in this House only are counted. If there is an equality in this House, and the Motion is put to uphold the judgment and it is lost on an equality, the result would be that the majority of the judges would not get effect given to their judgment. But the votes of the lower Court are not counted in this House.

Earl CARRINGTON: My point is that if the votes are equal the decision of the lower Court is upheld.

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: Yes, but you can only get at that by putting the Motion in the reverse way.

Earl CARRINGTON: In the case of a Bill I respectfully submit that there is no lower Court. The position is absolutely different; there is no similarity at all, unless the noble Lord would argue that the opinion of the promoters of the Bill—the Government—is to be taken as the decision of the lower Court. This is either absurd or else it is an absolute reversal of the practice of the House of Lords which the noble Lord has justified by one single precedent in the case of a Railway Rates Joint Committee on a trivial point of detail.

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: No.

Earl CARRINGTON: I believe such a thing as this has never been done before, and it is a reversal of the practice of the House of Lords which the noble Lord has justified by the single precedent of a Railway Rates Joint Committee on a point of detail. I have nothing more to say. In our opinion, to set up to manage the water supply of London this huge Water Trust, a body which is not directly responsible to anyone, and consists, to quote Lord Crewe, of uninterested and uninteresting people, a body which London has never asked for and which the water directors in the House of Commons have announced to be unsatisfactory, is a step which is not in the best interests of our fellow-citizens. Nobody believes it will be able to carry out its work efficiently, and therefore, as a member of the County Council, and in the interests of my constituents, I shall certainly record my vote against this Bill.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF: I hope your Lordships will excuse me if I detain you for a few moments while I offer some observation on this Bill. I am bound to admit that there are many things in the Bill which I dislike. Your Lordships are all aware that there are two Acts of Parliament framed expressly to meet such cases as we are dealing with in this compulsory purchase of the Water Companies' undertakings — the Lands Clauses Act and the Arbitration Act. Those two Acts of Parliament were carefully framed by the most skilful lawyers of the day, and they were expressly intended to embody the conditions which were thought fair when a man's property is taken from him. For some reason that I am unable to understand, this Bill sets aside and does not incorporate either of these Acts, which were expressly intended to meet cases of this sort. An acre of land cannot be taken compulsorily from the humblest landowner except under the terms and conditions laid down in the Lands Clauses Act. Yet here is a transaction involving forty or fifty millions in the purchase of property from the Water Companies against their will, and yet they are to be shut out from the Arbitration Act and the Lands Clauses Act. I admit there are words put into one Clause of the Bill that the compensation to be given to the Companies shall be given as though the case were within the Lands Clauses Act, but there are a vast number of other provisions in that Act which have been interpreted by a long series of legal decisions, and which are shut out. Under the Lands Clauses Act the property does not finally pass from the person whose property is compulsorily taken to the statutory purchaser until the compensation has been both settled and paid. Under this Bill the whole of the property of the companies passes, on what is called the appointed day, from them into the hands of the Water Board, although the compensation may not then have been settled, and certainly not paid; so that cash balances, reserve funds, investments of all kinds, and books pass from the Water Companies. Their officers and servants become the officers and servants of the Water Board, and the Companies may go to this Board of Arbitration without an engineer or secretary to assist them, and with all their books and accounts handed over to the Water Board. True, they may have access to the books, and money allotted to them to meet the expenses of the arbitration; but that does not seem to me to be quite satisfactory, and I think, if your Lordships had one of your farms compulsorily taken from you and the rents, the estate books, the services of your bailiff all transferred to the purchaser before compensation was paid, that would not seem to you a satisfactory arrangement enabling you to conduct your case before the arbitrator with success. The Lands Clauses Act enables the dispossessed owner to appoint one of the arbitrators, so that he shall have one member on the Arbitration Board in sympathy with him. But the Water Companies have not been in the least consulted in the choice of any one of the three very distinguished gentlemen who will act as arbitrators, and they do not regard them as in any sense sympathetic towards them.

I pass to what is the greatest objection to the Bill—namely, the constitution of the Water Board. The noble Lord who preceded me in the debate argued strongly in favour of the County Council. I have not one word to say against the County Council; on the contrary, I have the greatest admiration for the ability, industry, activity, and public spirit which have characterised their proceedings; but for some reason which I do not go into, the London County Council are not favourites with their neighbours, and the Bill introduced by Lord James in 1896 was wrecked owing to the surrounding counties in the London water area declaring that they would not in any circumstances put themselves under the County Council. The Commission which sat since then, of which I was a member, had evidence from every one of the counties around the Metropolis, declaring that they would not on any account submit to having the London County Council for the water authority over them, and they demanded severance if the County Council had the control of the water supply given to it. We came to the conclusion that severance was an impossible solution of the difficulty, and since putting the water supply into the hands of the London County Council involved severance, that seems to me a fatal objection. The London County Council are extremely ambitious, and even magnificent, in their schemes, and nothing will satisfy them except fetching water from Wales. We came to the conclusion that fetching water from Wales was unnecessary, and would cost £50,000,000; that was good reason for excluding the London County Councillors from being the purchasers. The noble Lord who has the conduct of this Bill brushed aside with good-natured contempt the recommendations of the Commission of which I had the honour to be a member. I feel it would not become me to argue at all in favour of the recommendations of that Commission. I only wish to say that it consisted of a number of competent experts, and that it was unanimous in the decision it came to, after an inquiry of two years' duration, in which no labour was spared to get the best assistance which could be procured on all hands. It was a very deliberate and very careful decision, and, in substance, it was our judgment that a board of experts was the proper authority to manage this tremendous business. The water supplied by the London Water Companies is a highly manufactured article, requiring the greatest possible care and study and very careful management to procure. Yet instead of taking experts to manage the water supply the Government choose this remarkable and novel system.

I feel the force of what the noble Lord in charge of the Bill said, that the Government wished to give London something like that preponderance on the Board which, if it had been given to the London County Council, would have wrecked their Bill owing to the opposition it would have excited from all quarters, and therefore they resort to this system of duplicating, so to speak, the representation of London. I recognise the ingenuity of that, but I am bound to say that the evidence given before the Joint Committee upstairs by these various bodies satisfied me that they would not treat the London Water question in the interests of the whole of the water area, but that their representatives would come with the particular view of each little locality and would advocate that, and that only. We had a gentleman before us representing Wandsworth. He was asked, "Do you not know that Battersea differs from you?" "Oh, yes," he replied, "we always differ from Battersea; we never agree." Then came gentlemen from Esher, the Dittons, and Kingston-on-Thames. They said they had a dreadful grievance against the Water Companies, and would like to assert it by being represented on the water authority. Their grievance was that the large mains that bring the water into London passed under their roads, requiring those roads to be pulled up, and that the filter beds occupied valuable building sites in their areas. It must be remembered that Parliament has compelled the Water Companies to go up to Hampton to draw water for London, and therefore the mains must pass through these districts, and the filter beds must be near the intake. That was the evidence called after the Committee had decided to delete the representation of these small districts and go back to county representation, and it satisfied me that a Board composed of such elements would not be a useful Board for conducting this extremely difficult undertaking, which should not be influenced by such petty considerations as those which arise in small districts.

Allusion has been made to the proceedings of the Committee. I cannot lay claim to any such innocence as the noble Lord opposite attributed to me. I did wilfully propose the question in the shape in which it appears in the Minutes. It was done because we were then informed that the view of the noble Lord who presided over the Committee was that the proper way to put the question was to put it in the negative form in which it now appears. That would have been done when we came to the schedule, and consequently, if we had proposed that the Resolution to delete these different constituencies be reversed, the equality of votes upon that would have led to the Resolution standing, and when we got to the schedule, the way in which the question would have been put would have caused that decision to be reversed again. That would have been a ridiculous position to have placed a Committee in before the public. I am not sufficiently old a Member of your Lordships' House to presume to say a word as to what the right practice should be. I can only say that for a noble Lord to put the question that the schedule be disagreed with, and then immediately vote that it should be agreed with, strikes me as a practice which requires a good deal of justification. I have no doubt it is right, but it is astonishing to me. Of course, I feel that it is impossible to constitute this Board on more manageable lines without altering the whole character of the Bill, but I can only express my regret that the Government have adopted the system of this cumbrous and unwieldy Board. It is a serious matter for the London ratepayers, and I feel that the popularly-elected members of the Board will not be able to resist the outcry for the equalisation of rates. It seems to me that to bring to bear on the members of this Board, who are charged with interests that concern the whole of the water area, pressure which always will be exercised by small constituencies is unwise, and the result will be most unsatisfactory and disastrous in a pecuniary sense to the ratepayers of London. On these grounds I do not propose to give any vote on the Second Reading, but I regret that the Bill is shaped in its present form.

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, this subject is one which naturally came before me when I was Chairman of the London County Council, and I have given a great deal of time and thought to it ever since. I wish we had heard more about the water supply of London, and rather less about the County Council and the proceedings in the Committee. The three great requisites of any system of water supply are that the water should be pure, that it should be sufficient, and that it should not cost more than can be helped. This Bill will not affect the purity or the supply, but I fear that it will have the effect of increasing the cost. The Board, as proposed to be constituted, does not seem likely to conduct the business with efficiency and economy. But beyond these general considerations, I have been requested by the local authorities of Kent, in the absence of Lord Stanhope, to say that they fear they may be drained of their water supply, even more than is now the case, without the power of making any effective resistance. They could not but feel that they had too little representation even as the Bill was introduced, but part of that little was taken away in Committee. Their case, though not quite so grievous as that of Hertfordshire, is very serious, and already danger to health has arisen. The London County Council have always recognised the claim put forward by the local authorities of Kent for severance, and we ask the Government to treat us with the same justice as the London County Council have always been prepared to extend to us. The Kent local authorities are unanimous on this question, and they have given notice of a Bill for next Session for the severance of Kent from the London area, and I hope that the passage of the present Bill will not prejudice this forthcoming measure.

*LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, as Vice-Chairman of the London County Council I must ask your Lordships to allow me to say a few words in support of their action last Tuesday in condemning the Bill by seventy votes to nineteen. I may observe that there are thirty-four Moderates on the County Council, so that the minority of nineteen shows that the Bill has not by any means the unanimous support of the Moderates. I occupy, I am sorry to say, the position of being the only Member of your Lordships' House who has been on the London County Council since it was first established. I very much regret that there is not one single Member on the Conservative side to represent this House on the Council, and that is all the more remarkable because we have on our side six Liberal peers, whereas we are out-numbered in this House to the extent of certainly twelve to one. The noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland said he thought it was in accordance with the convenience of the House that this Bill should be taken at once, and, if I may say so, rushed through. My complaint is that it is not courteous to this House to treat it in that way, and I do not think the noble Lord tried to answer that contention. The noble Lord did not meet the point of my noble friend as to the movement in the shares of the Water Companies; the point was that, despite the safeguards in the Bill, directly it was certain that the Bill would pass the shares went up by leaps and bounds. Although he began by referring to the great respect in which he held the London County Council, the noble Lord said we were a partizan body who refused to do simple justice to our adversaries in electing the aldermen. It is true that when, after a hard struggle, we succeeded in getting, not a small majority, but a considerable majority, some of us were so much flushed with victory, and so angry with the things that were said about us at the election, that we, unfortunately as I think, took nearly all the aldermen to ourselves. We have since repented of that action, and have given to the Moderate party the full allowance of aldermen to which they are entitled by their position at the poll.

The noble Lord said the London County Council were not entitled to take exception to this Board of sixty-eight, inasmuch as they themselves proposed a Board of forty-eight. But there was a good deal of difference between sixty-eight and forty-eight. Noble Lords are wrong in saying that we on the London County Council are determined to have our own way, and that if we cannot get our own way we immediately say we won't play. The reason forty-eight was put in our Bills was in order to conciliate opposition. We thought that forty-eight was too large a number of members to have on the Board, but fixed on that number as a compromise in order to conciliate particularly the opposition of the City of London. I think the noble Viscount opposite very greatly exaggerated the unpopularity of the London County Council. As to the outside areas disagreeing with the County Council, they do not agree with the present scheme, and the Government had specially stated in the other House that they will not interfere with any outside authority who choose to put forward a case for severance.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I do not think that is accurate.

*LORD MONKSWELL: I have not the exact form of the statement, but I think the noble Lord will find that I am absolutely accurate in saying that the Government stated they would not prejudge any case as to severance and would allow any authority who desired to do so to put forward cases for severance.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The Government cannot prevent an authority bringing it forward, but I will ascertain accurately what was said. I believe that one authority which has indicated its desire to be severed has been told that during the period of transition the Government will oppose the Bill.

*LORD MONKSWELL: But after the period of transition they will not interfere! We were doing our best to come to an agreement with the county of Surrey and other outside authorities, and I think if we had been allowed time we should have come to an agreement. Viscount Ridley's Committee suggested, as we all know, that the London County Council should be the authority, but the London County Council has never suggested that they should be the sole authority in the sense of having nobody associated with them; they would have been quite content that the Committee through which they acted should contain representatives from outside in the same way as the Technical Education Board of the County Council, which is not exclusively manned by County Councillors. The London County Council has been ousted, as we have heard tonight, for two reasons. First of all, because it is said that they are in favour of severance and the Government are against it. As to that, I do not think I need say more, because it is perfectly certain that the Government will have to agree to severance whoever is the authority. The second reason is that it is said we ought not to be the authority because we advocate, and have advocated for some time, a scheme for getting water from Wales. The decision of Viscount Llandaff's Commission would have been entitled to a great deal more weight if the Commission had not taken as gospel the Report of Lord Balfour's Committee without re-opening the question of whether the evidence given before the Committee had or had not been refuted by the course of events. The noble Viscount said they were not going to re-open that question, and on the evidence given before Lord Balfour's Committee, which has been refuted by the events of the last ten years, they founded their opinion that we ought not to go to Wales for water. Lord Balfour's Commission took the evidence mostly of the Water Companies and of persons representing their interests. It appears to me that the noble Lord is extremely guileless; it must have been obvious that it was to the advantage of the Water Companies to have Thames reservoirs rather than go to Wales. Their evidence may have been perfectly honest, but every word they said has been contradicted by subsequent experience. In support of our scheme we produced our engineer, and we were absolutely without bias. How could the County Council have any bias at all except to do what they thought was best in the interest of the ratepayers? It is not surprising that the conclusions of Lord Balfour's Commission have been absolutely refuted by events. The noble Lord is perfectly well aware that it was suggested by the Water Companies that only twenty-five gallons of water would be necessary, and that that would be a lavish supply per inhabitant, but even since 1891 the Water Companies have been wrong in predicting that the requirements would go down. It had gone up from thirty two gallons in 1891 to thirty-five and a half in 1897, and what our engineer said—namely, that it will be as much as forty before 1931, is likely to be true. With regard to the depletion of the Thames, the companies were proved to be in the wrong and our engineers in the right. It seems to me that the London County Council were perfectly right in asking to go to Wales, and thereby stop the depletion of the Thames. The Welsh scheme was condemned on evidence which has proved untrustworthy, and if we are not soon allowed to take land in Wales other authorities will grasp the sources of supply, which fact London will have great reason to deplore.

With regard to the size of the Water Board, it seems to me that the noble Viscount has so completely riddled the Government's proposals on that matter that it is hardly necessary for me to say anything. But I would observe that my noble friend Viscount Hampden, who is the Chairman of one of the Water Companies, has expressed himself in the strongest way against this Board of sixty-eight. Our view of the case is very different from that of Lord Llandaff. The noble Viscount thinks that the Water Companies will go into arbitration perfectly unequipped and apparently without any money to enable them to place their case properly before the tribunal. The London County Council, on the contrary, view with apprehension the proceedings before the Court of Arbitration between two bodies so differently equipped in knowledge and experience as the Water Board and the Water Companies. The Water Board would at the outset be unwieldy, unorganised, discordant, ill-informed, and ill-equipped. The companies would be united, experienced, and deeply interested, monopolising all the most eminent professional advice and be able to draw on the ratepayers for the expenses of the arbitration. On this point the late Lord Farrer (then Sir Thomas Farrer), than whom there could be no higher authority, said as to the proposed appointment of a commission of fifty-one members—

> "The appointment of such a commission, unwieldy and incongruous in its composition and unfitted to enter into negotiation and contest with the united companies, would, under the circumstances described, be virtually to place the interests of the people of London in the hands of Water Companies."

With regard to the Borough Councils, it never occurred for a moment to those bodies that the water supply was a question which they ought to manage for themselves. There was a great conference some years ago, presided over by the Earl of Onslow, of the Metropolitan authorities to consider what powers should be delegated from the London County Council to the minor authorities, and not one single person in the course of the proceedings suggested for a moment that the water supply was a matter that ought to be managed by the minor authorities. With respect to the evidence on that point, the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Sir Bosdin Leech), when before the Joint Committee, was asked—

> "Speaking for Manchester, do you think that it would be at all desirable to have separate parts of the city separately represented on your Board?"

And his answer was—

> "I certainly think not. At one time there was an impression that each ward should have a representative on the Committee, but experience has proved that that has not worked well. It was attempted for some time and broke down."

The size of the Board is objectionable, not only from the point of view of management, but also from that of purchase, because this body will have to deal with the subject of purchase before the Court of Arbitration, and the questions raised will necessitate intimate knowledge of the Water Companies' history. The companies now claim that they have a monopoly; some time ago they claimed nothing of the kind. Fifty years ago, when the first Water Rating Act was passed, and before that time, the charges were by agreement. Then and previously competition was invoked as a safeguard to the public. When they wanted to get rating the Water Companies invoked compensation, and when they had got rating powers, in order to get more for their undertakings they invoked that blessed word "monopoly." There are great questions as to the stability of their income. The Llandaff Commission stated that Companies may be at the height of prosperity today, and yet in the near future be compelled to incur great and unremunerative expenditure. It seems that, notwithstanding what is put in this Bill, the companies are going to urge that the value of their income from full rating powers, and not their present income, ought to be taken into consideration, and we shall have to fight that as best we can.

I am told that the Water Companies are now rating up to the hilt. I happen to be on the managing body of Emanuel School, which is a charity, and a few weeks ago the Water Company which supplies the school gave us notice to terminate their agreement, which was to supply by meter. Hitherto they had supplied us by meter at a minimum rent of £10 a year; now they have told us that if we want to get water by meter the minimum will be raised from £10 to £30 a year, which would be as much as we should pay if we got the water under ordinary rating terms. The result of the companies grinding us down to pay this extra sum will be that one or two boys less will be able to get scholarships at the school. I was very indignant at this, and spoke to various people about it. They all replied—"That is what the Water Companies are doing all round in view of purchase." Amongst others I mentioned the matter to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, and he said his water rate had also been put up. Therefore this is no isolated case. As an instance of the curious manner in which the representation on the Water Board works out, I may mention that Stoke Newington, with a population of 50,000, will have the same voting power as the Borough of Camberwell, with a population of over a quarter of a million. Moreover, there are fourteen urban and rural districts outside the County of London that will not be represented at all. The Water Companies are the spoilt children of legislation, and it is very curious how Parliament seems to do things for them which it would not do for anybody else. A few years ago an Act of Parliament was passed to rate advertisements on hoardings and walls, and directly the rates were raised in respect of these advertisements the Water Companies increased their charges too. I should have thought that directly Parliament found that out they would have remedied that injustice, but it has not been remedied. We object to this Bill because the authority is unwieldy and badly constructed, because it may lead to a large endowment by the ratepayers of water shareholders, and because we are perfectly certain that the provisions of the Bill are unduly favourable to the Water Companies, for the shares move in price with the prospects of this Bill

*VISCOUNT HAMPDEN: My Lords, I do not rise to continue this discussion on the principle of the Bill, for the obvious reason that it would not be judicious to do so, as I am interested both as a stockholder and director in one of the companies. But I hope your Lordships will allow me to make one observation on the statement of the noble Lord who has just sat down, that "the Water Companies were raising their rates all round in view of purchase." I think it is a pity that statements of that kind should be made, and that no trouble should be taken to verify them. I give the statement the most unqualified and deliberate denial. If we did so it would be a suicidal policy on our part, because it would be obvious that the knowledge that we had done so would be before the Arbitrators. As a matter of fact, we are continually lowering and raising water rates in London; that is an automatic operation. There was a judgment given in the Courts that the net annual value was to be considered the same as the net ratable value. Then, further, there was an Act of Parliament by which it was declared that the net ratable value should be the basis of the water rate, and so, consequently, when the assessment is changed by the local authorities the water rate goes up and down automatically.

*EARL RUSSELL: My Lords, I apprehend that the Government regard this Bill as one of the legislative triumphs of the session, but if that is so I am very much astonished to have heard only one speaker support it from the other side of the House. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill refrained in the first instance from addressing the House at all, and was apparently only reluctantly induced to say a few words upon it. Not one other speaker have we heard from the Government Benches in support of the measure, which looks as if the support of the Bill amongst noble Lords on the other side of the House is by no means unanimous. The first question one asks is, why a Bill dealing with a municipal matter of this kind should be introduced as a Government measure at all? Attempts have been made year after year by the properly-constituted body to remedy the present injustice, and these attempts have been invariably nipped in the bud by His Majesty's Government in the other House. None of the Bills promoted by the London County Council have been allowed to pass the Second Reading and reach the Committee stage, where they could be considered on their merits. London is always treated in a different manner from any other city in the kingdom. The principle which has been applied to London in this Bill would not have been tolerated for a moment by Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, or by any other large provincial town. This authority is to manage a matter of domestic concern, and yet it is constituted by the Government without any consultation with the representative municipal authority, the London County Council; and in the first instance it was suggested, though that has now been withdrawn, that the Chairman of the Water Board should be nominated by the Local Government Board and paid as if it were a Government Department. Every principle embodied in this Bill is in direct opposition to the system of municipal government which has obtained so far in this country. I cannot say that I attach very much importance to the gentle blessings which the London County Council receives from the other side in debates in this House, for they scarcely represent the true mind of those who have always opposed the progressive policy of that body. Their object is really to destroy responsible municipal government and direct representation. Whether the London County Council has been wise or unwise, is, I submit to your Lordships, beside the point. The point is that the London County Council is the directly-elected representative body of the ratepayers, and if the ratepayers who elect it are satisfied with its policy, it seems to me that it matters very little who else is dissatisfied. This Bill violates what used to be considered a Liberal principle—no taxation without representation. An indirectly elected body, chosen by a most complicated and curious method, is given a rating power over the whole of the Metropolis, with no responsibility to the persons it rates. We have heard from Lord Avebury that the outside authorities are revolting against the provisions of the Bill. I contend that the Bill is going to do harm to London in many respects. In the first place, it is going to raise the water-rate instead of reducing it. What can be the justification of legislation on the water question unless it be to obtain an equalisation and reduction of the water rate, and to transfer the control of the water supply to the municipal authority? The purchase is to be conducted by a heterogeneous body, and I ask, what chance has such a body, in preparing its case for arbitration, against the united skill of the eight great companies? That means that we shall pay too much, in the first instance, for our water, and the subsequent administration by this body cannot be so advantageous as administration by the municipal authority. The doubling of the representation of London, by bringing in representatives from the Borough Councils, I can only attribute to a desire that somebody other than the County Council should be represented. It does not seem to be the spirit in which legislation should be conceived, that because you are not in sympathy with the majority on a certain body you should try to set that body aside. We were told by Lord Balfour that the curious provision by which persons might be elected from outside was intended to give the maximum of freedom to the Borough Councils in electing their representatives. Yes; but it gives the minimum of freedom to the ratepayers, who will have little opportunity of turning off an incompetent and inefficient man. In the event of a member of the Water Board not being so upright as he should be, how is he to be attacked? The constituency he represents may be a small constituency, say of 600 voters. The only way in which such a man could be dealt with would be by attacking him in his constituency, and he may have an interest there which is purely personal, and the electors may take no interest whatever in the water question. The ratepayers have practically no control whatever over this body. That is the reason why the people of London consider that their interests have been betrayed by this Bill, and that they will suffer if it passes.

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Motion."

The House divided:—Contents, 51; Not-Contents, 18.

CONTENTS.

Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Wellington, D.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Winchester, M.

Bathurst, E.
Camperdown, E.
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Hardwicke, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Onslow, E.
Romney, E.
Selborne, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Verulam, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Wharncliffe, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Falkland, V.
Knutsford, V.
Abinger, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Barrymore, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Chelmsford, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Colchester, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Harris, L.
Hay, L. (*E. Kinnoul.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Lindley, L.
Ludlow, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Robertson, L.
Rowton, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Wimborne, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Breadalbane, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Russell, E.
Spencer, E.
Falmouth, V.
Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)
Burghclere, L.
Coleridge, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Monkswell, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.

Bill read 2^{a} accordingly and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

YEOMANRY REGULATIONS.

A NOBLE LORD: In the absence of my noble friend Viscount Galway, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War when the new regulations for the Yeomanry are going to be issued.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: My Lords, the last edition of the Yeomanry Regulations was issued in 1898. My right hon. friend the Secretary of State regrets very much that there should be any delay in issuing the new ones, which he is well aware are being anxiously awaited by officers of Yeomanry regiments. But there have been difficulties in the way of issuing these regulations which I will shortly explain. About a year ago it was found necessary, owing to matters brought to light in the South African war, to issue fresh regulations, and the authorities at the War Office revised the regulations of 1898. Those revised regulations were referred to a strong Committee, who not only considered them, but suggested fifteen or sixteen entirely new points which involved considerable expenditure and which have naturally been a matter of consideration between the War Office and the Treasury. These regulations are now in a form that would enable the Secretary of State in the ordinary course to issue them early in the coming year, but in the meantime the Secretary of State decided to appoint Advisory Boards for the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers. These Boards consist of selected officers nominated by the Generals commanding the Army Corps, who will meet from time to time at the War Office. It is felt, in the interests of the Yeomanry, that these regulations should be considered by the Yeomanry Advisory Board, and that Board at this moment is being constituted. I think I may say that it is only a matter of, at the outside, a few weeks before the Board will be formed, but in order to avoid the delay which would occur before they were made public, it has been determined by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State to issue the regulations provisionally. All regiments will act upon them as if they were the final regulations, and when they have been issued provisionally Yeomanry regiments will have an opportunity of seeing how they work, and through the Advisory Board will be able to make suggestions to the Secretary of State, by which he will be able to judge of their popularity and expediency. The final regulations will then be issued. The question of issuing the provisional regulations is really a question of the printers. It is rather a complicated matter for them to deal with, but they have practically promised that they will be ready by February 1, and it is my hope, as well as that of the Secretary of State, that by that date they will be in the hands of officers.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Eight o'clock, till Tomorrow, Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 12th December, 1902.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (WATER AND GENERAL) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Considered, read the third time, and passed.

PETITIONS.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Old Machar, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Copies presented of six Orders relating to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamships "Kansas," "Irishman," "Victorian," "Cambrian," "Californian," and "Sylvania" [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

VENEZUELA (NO. 1, 1902).

Copy presented of Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Venezuela [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Education Bill—Position of Central Welsh Board.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Central Welsh Board will continue to exist after the passing of the Education Bill; if so, will the powers and duties of the Board remain as heretofore.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) Neither the existence, nor the powers and duties, of the Central Welsh Board, are directly affected by the Education Bill.

Education Bill—Clause 18 (8)—Welsh Intermediate Education.

DR. MACNAMARA: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, whether, having regard to the fact that Clause 18, sub-Section (8), of the Education Bill transfers the powers of the joint education committees under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act of 1889, to the education committees under the Education Bill, and to the fact that the Intermediate Education Act, which is not repealed, provides in Section 6, sub-Section (1), that the proceedings of education committees under it need not be submitted to the County Council for approval, it will be competent in future for any education committee in Wales acting under the Education Bill to transact any of its proceedings without duly reporting those proceedings to the education authority on behalf of which it is acting; and, if so, whether he will consider the desirableness of repealing that part of the Act of 1889 which would enable such a course to be adopted.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) Clause 18, sub-Section (8), of the Education Bill does not transfer the powers of the joint education committees to the education committees under the Bill. The powers transferred are not the powers of the joint education committees, but those of the county governing bodies; and these are not transferred to the education committees, but to the new local education authorities.

Navy—Practice Ammunition.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the custom to make money allowances to the gunnery staffs of ships in His Majesty's Navy for empty cylinders of one-inch practice ammunition, he will grant a Return of the ammunition supplied for practice to the flagships of every squadron in 1901, and the number of cylinders returned from this ammunition for the purpose of obtaining the cash premium.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) This information can be given without much difficulty if there is any general desire that it should be furnished. Such a Return, however, will have no practical value, as it is obvious that the cylinders returned to store on repayment in any particular year are not necessarily those belonging to the ammunition used in practice during the same year, nor would the two sets of figures bear any real relation to each other. To prevent misunderstanding, it would be desirable to append a note to this effect to the Return, if issued.

Constitution of the Board of Admiralty.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the expediency of adding to the Board of Admiralty a naval constructor and mechanical engineer.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) The Government contemplate no changes in the composition of the Board of Admiralty.

Axholme Light Railway.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in the case of the Isle of Axholme Light Railway, to be constructed by the North Eastern Railway Company, he will consider the advisability of requiring the building of a bridge over the main street of the village of Haxey, as desired by the inhabitants of that place, instead of permitting the railway to cross the street on the level.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I am not aware that any representations have been received from the inhabitants of Haxey in this matter, but if such representations are made they shall be brought to the notice of the officer who may be appointed to inspect the line prior to the opening thereof for passenger traffic.

Imports of Russian Sugar from non-Russian Ports.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any Russian sugar comes to this country via Hamburg or any other non-Russian port, and if he can ascertain what is the amount of such sugar.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I cannot say how much Russian sugar, if any, comes to the United Kingdom from non-Russian ports. The total importation of Russian sugar into this country has in recent years been inconsiderable, the average of the past three years having been less than 4,000 tons per annum.

Sugar Exports from British Guiana.

MR. M'KENNA: To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether the exports of sugar from British Guiana have increased or decreased during the past five years.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) Starting from 1897-8, the quantity of sugar exported shows a decrease for the next two years, and an increase since then; the quantity exported in 1901-2 being rather more than that for 1897-8, while the value is rather less.

Alaska Boundary Dispute.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a proposal has been received from the United States Government for the appointment of a judicial tribunal of arbitration to settle the question of the Alaska boundary; and, if so, will he state what reply has been sent.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) There has recently been a renewal of the discussions upon this subject, but no useful purpose would be served by making any statement with regard to it at present.

Late Inspector Gardiner, Royal Irish Constabulary—Widow's Allowance.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state upon what grounds the Inspector General of the Royal Irish Constabulary has refused to grant a widow's allowance to Mrs. Gardiner, of Allendale, Baltinglass, county Wicklow, relict of the late Joshua Gardiner, District Inspector, Royal Irish Constabulary.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Payment of a grant was withheld in this case on the ground that the conditions under which the grant is payable were not fulfilled.

Belfast Revaluation.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to give the Return regarding the revising officers engaged in the revaluation of Belfast.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Return has been sent to the hon. Member.

South Africa—Field Force Canteen.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Field Force Canteen is being wound up and remodelled under the official title of the Garrison Institutes in South Africa; and, if so, whether he will publish its accounts and state in what way the profits that have been earned will be made use of.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) With the cessation of hostilities the Field Force Canteen system is in process of being remodelled to suit the requirements of the force remaining in South Africa. With regard to balance in hand no decision has as yet been made as to its disposal, and therefore it would be premature to consider the question of publication of the accounts.

Belfast Barracks—Bread Contract.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now state the result of his inquiries as to the bread contract given to a firm of chemists for the Victoria Barracks, Belfast, and the Hollywood Barracks, county Down.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) From the full inquiries which have been made, it appears that this bread contract is not technically sub-let; but I do not consider the present arrangement satisfactory, and propose to terminate it shortly.

Fleetwood (Norwich) Canteen.

CAPTAIN CLIVE (Herefordshire, Ross): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the former canteen stewards of the 9th Regimental District at Norwich, and the garrison canteen at Fleetwood, have been given contracts as tenants of these places; and whether he will consider the advisability of taking steps to prevent a reversion to the condition of canteen management which the regimental system was introduced to put an end to.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The general officers commanding Army corps and districts have, under existing arrangements, full powers of deciding whether their canteens are to be conducted on the tenant or regimental system; and, so long as this discretion is entrusted to them, it is not proposed to interfere with the measures they may take.

Household Cavalry—Officers' Chargers.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the grounds on which officers of the Household Cavalry are excepted from the provisions of recent regulations which allow a free issue of two chargers to each Cavalry officer; and whether, in the event of it not being found possible to supply officers of the Household Cavalry with Government chargers, a sum equivalent to that granted to Cavalry officers of the Line will be placed at their disposal for the purpose.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Household Cavalry are a special corps requiring special horses for parade purposes, and it is therefore not held desirable to include them in the proposed arrangements for the Cavalry.

Deputy Master of the Mint.

SIR JOHN LENG: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will explain the reasons for the delay in filling up the vacancy in the office of Deputy Master of the Royal Mint; and whether it is intended to abolish the office.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) It is not intended to abolish the office in question. I expect to be able to make the appointment in the course of a few days.

POINT OF PRACTICE—RIGHT TO RAISE URGENT QUESTIONS ON MOTION FOR WEEK-END ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House, at the rising of the House this day, do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether it will be in order for me, on this Motion, to submit a statement as to the condition of the unemployed with the object of inducing the Government to take action in order to prevent the people from dying of starvation.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think that such a statement would not be in order. I understand that the hon. Member, in making the suggestion, is referring to the experience of last Friday,† when the hon. Member for King's Lynn claimed on this Motion to discuss a subject which was irrelevant to it. At that time, I had no notice of the Motion, and had no opportunity of looking into any of the precedents on the subject, and therefore I thought it better not to interfere with the observations which the hon. Member for King's Lynn proposed to make without further examination. I have since made examination of the question, and I find that since 1856 there has been no question of any debate on this Motion; and, as far as I know, debates must have been extremely rare before that. In 1861 a Standing Order was made dealing with this question of adjournment from Friday to Monday, and from that day onwards the Motion has been frequently put when the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne was being discussed, and during Autumn Sessions, and there is no record of a Motion like that suggested. Last Friday, I stated my own opinion that the practice of raising an irrelevant discussion upon this Motion was obsolete, and I am satisfied that it is an obsolete practice. Since 1861 we have considerably altered our Rules with the view of preventing what I may describe as casual debates interfering with the business set down for discussion, and I believe that when those alterations were made it was never supposed that general debate could be raised on this Motion. I am bound to say, therefore, that the discussion indicated by the hon. Member cannot be raised.

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† See page 131.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: May I ask whether the prohibition of discussion indicated applies to all Motions for the adjournment of the House, or only to those for adjourning from Friday to Monday.

*MR. SPEAKER: This Friday to Monday Motion is on quite a different footing from the Motion upon which observations can be, and frequently are, made at the close of the evening, observations which, from the time and the nature of the case, are short — such as Questions put to Ministers, or short observations made on some particular subject of immediate interest. But if this practice suggested by the hon. Member were permitted it would enable any hon. Member to raise a discussion which might—subject, of course, to the Closure —last nearly the whole of the day, and thereby interfere with the other business which had been set down for discussion.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): In view of your ruling, Sir, may I appeal to the President of the Local Government Board to give this subject of the unemployed prompt, immediate, and sympathetic consideration?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The hon. Member has given private notice of his intention to put a Question in the course of a few days. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will carry out the suggestion he has made, and then a full answer will be given by my right hon. friend or by myself.

Question put, and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

As amended, was considered.

(12.15) THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I have to move a new Clause dealing with the Amendment of the law relating to the acceptance of tenders. Since the Clauses were discussed in Committee a general agreement has been arrived at as to the new Clauses. I have made a careful study of the new Clauses, and there are one or two standing in the names of Irish Members which have suggested that we should revert to the practice which obtained under the old Grand Juries in respect of contract and tenders. I have been unable, however, to go the whole length which hon. Members suggest. I have often said that I am opposed to keeping popular bodies in leading strings and to binding them to accept the lowest tender. But many representations have reached me which, I think, have made out a case in favour of doing the business in connection with contracts in a more businesslike way, so that the ratepayers shall not be defrauded of the remedies provided by law. The Amendment which I suggest is a modest one, conducing to good order, economy, and protection of the ratepayers. It provides that where a Rural District Council or a proposed committee accept a tender for the execution of a public work which is not the lowest tender received for that work, a minute shall be made stating the reasons for the non-acceptance of the tender, or, in case of more than one, of each tender, which is lower than the accepted tender. The minute is to be produced at any audit of accounts, and if the auditor thinks that any tender was accepted for any fraudulent or improper purpose he may declare the contract to be illegal, and the contract will become void.

New Clause (Amendment of law relating to acceptance of tenders)—(*Mr. Wyndham*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said this Clause raised a very important question in regard to surcharging the members of local authorities. He thought the House had just cause for complaint that the Clause had been placed on the Paper only on Wednesday, although the right hon. Gentleman had had the Bill before him for months past.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): The hon. Gentleman is under a complete misapprehension. I have had a similar Clause on the Paper for weeks.

MR. CALDWELL said that was an entirely different thing to the Government putting the Clause down. This was the first indication the House had had that the Government intended to press such a Clause. There had been no opportunity for the Irish people to consider the merits of the new Clause, which was too important to be considered on the Report stage without proper notice. He protested against the Government, in the absence of the bulk of the Irish Members, taking an important Clause of this kind. Had such a proposal been made in an English or Scotch Bill, an opportunity of discussing it on the Committee Stage would certainly have been insisted upon, and it was not right, even as a matter of procedure, that such an important Clause should be pressed under these circumstances.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) suggested the omission of Sections 4 and 7. The right to surcharge was an important question, and it was desirable to proceed as gently as possible in that matter. Surely the object of the right hon. Gentleman would be obtained without, at any rate, embodying Section 4.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) pointed out that the auditor at present had the right to surcharge for making illegal payments, and the new Clause added nothing to that. There was an appeal from the decision of the auditor to the Local Government Board, which had the power to deal with the question on principles of equity rather than in strict law. Then there was an appeal to the courts of law; so that in the result there was nothing new in this proposal.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time and added to the Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM moved a new Clause enabling the Local Government Board to make general regulations for the audit of the accounts of public bodies and their officers. He explained that there was originally in the Bill a Clause which went a great deal further and took away the right of local appeal in certain cases arising out of an audit, but strong exception was taken to that, and it was removed from the Bill. Since they discussed the matter on the 31st July a number of representations had been made to him and to the Irish Local Government Board to the effect that the audits should be put on a different footing, more particularly in respect of the asylum account. It was desirable to have some form of procedure, but there was no provision for that in the existing Act, and he had therefore put down this new Clause, reserving to all parties the rights they now had of bringing an issue before the courts of law.

New Clause (Regulations as to Audit)—(*Mr. Wyndham*)—brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) thought that if the auditors were to be entrusted with these very considerable powers it was desirable that they should be appointed by Civil Service examination and competition, so that it could not be pretended that officers were appointed in any partisan manner. In the course of a previous debate he obtained from the Government an undertaking that the appointments of auditors should be made from the general body of Chartered Accountants, and that to a great extent had been done. He thought the question of throwing them open to Civil Service examination was now worth consideration.

MR. TULLY thought the Clause a very useful one. At the request of the

Nationalists of Belfast, he recently put a question showing how the people of that city suffered because the audit was not duly notified, either to the public or to the Corporation. Another grave scandal had occurred in Westmeath by which the ratepayers were swindled out of thousands of pounds. Hence the necessity for some such Clause as this.

MR. ATKINSON pointed out that candidates for the Civil Service had to enter at a very early age, and if the appointments were made subject to Civil Service examination they would not get men of considerable experience in other walks of life, which it was their great object to secure in dealing with this question.

MR. CALDWELL explained his interposition in a discussion on an Irish Bill by saying that he did not so much object to the Clause, but it seemed to him the whole debate had been arranged with one section of the Irish Party.

MR. TULLY: Why not?

MR. CALDWELL said he was not finding fault with that, but it was obvious to him that the Bill was being passed through a House which had been "squared."

MR. T. M. HEALY protested that this observation was not in order. Personally, he had not seen the Clauses until he arrived at the House this morning.

MR. CALDWELL said that the great bulk of the Irish Members were absent. [NATIONALIST cries of "Why?"] He did not see why he should be asked to give reasons for the absence of other people. But equally with other hon. Members he had a responsibility for all legislation, whether English, Scotch, or Irish. Although, as a rule, he did not interfere with Irish Bills, under the present circumstances he felt bound to say a word or two, because, in his opinion, it was a dangerous principle to introduce surcharging, and if it was enforced it was more than likely that the whole fabric of local government in Ireland would tumble about the ears of the Government.

MR. WYNDHAM said, as a matter of personal explanation, he must impugn the statement that this Clause was being passed in some clandestine form arranged between himself and a certain section of the Irish Members. He might say that on the Second Reading the hon. Member for Waterford stated that he must not be taken as anxious to throw any obstruction in the way of the Bill, and the Committee stage, largely owing to the exertions of the hon. Member, having got through in one night, he (the hon. Member) suggested that the Report stage might be taken the same night. That was an almost unprecedented suggestion coming from the source it did. Since that time he had not heard that the hon. Member had changed his views, and if he had changed his views it was for him to be in his place to say so.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time.

Question proposed, "That the Clause be added to the Bill."

MR. CALDWELL said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that the hon. Member for Waterford wished the Report stage taken at the evening sitting of the day on which the Committee stage was taken. Was that the case?

MR. WYNDHAM: According to the *Hansard* report, the hon. Member said—

> "We are very uncertain as to what time we shall have for the Report stages, and we are prepared to proceed with its consideration now."

MR. CALDWELL: Everybody knows quite well that those words mean an early day. It could not mean that night.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! This is not material to the Motion before the House. The right hon. Gentleman, in answer to the hon. Member's challenge, has read what occurred, but this cannot form the subject of a debate.

MR. CALDWELL: I speak from memory. I know perfectly well what took place.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member will allow me to remind him that the only question before the House is whether this Clause shall be added to the Bill.

*MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) said the County Councils and the Rural District Councils of Ireland had, without exception, demanded the Local Government (Ireland) No. 2 Bill. When the Chief Secretary had declared that there was no understanding between him and the Nationalist Members present as to the acceptance of the Clause, the hon. Member for Mid-Lanark might have given the House a similar assurance with reference to the absent Irish Members.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! This irrelevant debate must not be extended. The statement made has been answered, and there the matter must end.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

(12·40.) MR. WYNDHAM next moved a new Clause embodying an Amendment of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. He admitted that this Clause was not in every sense of the word a new Clause, but he would remind hon. Members that some action in this direction was foreshadowed by him in the debate which took place on the Committee stage.

MR. CALDWELL: On a point of order. This Clause provides that certain payments shall not be made out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account. The effect of that will be that certain authorities will not get so much as they otherwise would. This would involve a deficit which would have to be made up out of the rates, and I submit, therefore, that such a proposal cannot be made on the Report stage.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have considered this matter. I think the Clause is in order, although it is very near the line. There is a statute which says that certain grants to the extent of one half shall be made in aid of salaries. This Clause deals with future appointments and increases only, and does not affect existing ones, and, therefore, I think it is in order.

MR. WYNDHAM said that during the Committee stage in July he mentioned that he would have to look in the Autumn very closely into the Local Taxation Account to see for what it could be allocated. Many questions had been put to him by hon. Members for Irish constituencies—not merely hon. Members present but others who were not present. Parliament had provided that certain revenues should go into the Local Taxation Account, and had also declared that any balance that might remain after certain claims by local bodies had been satisfied, should be devoted to such purposes as Parliament might direct. It was well known throughout Ireland that there was a considerable balance in this Local Taxation fund; but it was impossible for him to advise Parliament to take any action with respect to that balance, so long as the fund was open to varying charges which could not be estimated in advance. He would put this argument to hon. Members, and especially to those Irish Members who were present—for he had not had any conversation with them, collectively or individually, with regard to this Clause—that it was one which he believed was necessary if the Local Taxation fund was not to be frittered away, and if they were to do anything to relieve the burdens of the ratepayers of Ireland. It involved no departure from the principle of Section 58 of the Local Government Act. Its sole object was to say that that principle was to be equitably carried out. The Local Government Act said that a certain sum, which was to be estimated, would be ample to pay half the salaries of certain officers. They now found that unless they could go further and secure to each local body the amount it was entitled to, the wealthy, growing cities, which could embark on sanitary schemes of great magnitude without unduly burdening their ratepayers, would absorb so much of the Local Taxation fund that the rest of Ireland would not receive the one half of the payments to which it was entitled. Another principle of the Local Government Act was that these local bodies should have the fullest possible discretion in regard to the administration, with the minimum of central control from the Local Government Board. So long as the Local Government Board was in the position of trustee of this Local Taxation fund it had to exercise control in Ireland. The richer cities — Belfast, Waterford, or Limerick—might, if they chose, and quite properly, start some big sanitary institution, and the Local Government Board had to step in and say—"You cannot do that, because it would put a charge on the Local Taxation fund which would affect the poorer unions in the West of Ireland." Any one who had read that portion of the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation which dealt with Ireland, and who had observed the present inequalities of local taxation in Ireland, would, he thought, support the Government in its effort to prevent these inequalities being emphasised in the wrong direction. Undoubtedly they would have to deal with the whole question of local taxation in Ireland, as in England, in some future session; but, meantime, it should not be prejudiced in any way, and it would be prejudiced if this balance continued to be depleted by the richer districts to the detriment of the poorer.

New Clause (Amendment of 61 and 62 Vict., c. 37, s. 58, as respects payments out of Local Taxation Account on behalf of unions and rural districts) —(*Mr. Wyndham*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

Mr. LOUGH suggested that as only half of the scheme of the Government for dealing with this matter had been developed it would be wise to postpone dealing with this Clause until the right hon. Gentleman could present his proposal in a complete form. He was moving to stop certain payments, and meantime the fund would go on accumulating. In one year a balance of £76,000 remained undistributed, and considerable amounts had been added to the unallocated total in the last two years. The effect of the Clause would be to increase the balance at the expense of the counties as well as of the richer cities, and seeing that the right hon. Gentleman had promised to bring in his proposal next year, surely, instead of dealing now with one half of it, they had better await its full development.

Mr. WYNDHAM: This is a growing evil. The danger which now exists of the increasing demands on the Local Taxation Account will be emphasised by this Bill, and this Clause is merely a protective measure in the interest of the poor parts of Ireland. If the fund were unduly depleted by the larger cities, the poorer parts would not even get sufficient to pay the half of the salaries to which they are entitled.

Mr. LOUGH said the right hon. Gentleman had admitted his case. He still felt they ought to see the whole scheme, but still he would not press the objection.

Major JAMESON (Clare, W.) said he represented a very poor constituency, and he cordially approved the Clause. The hon. Member who last spoke had always been a good friend to Ireland, and he would appeal to him to bear in mind the fact that in the new Under Secretary for Ireland they had a thorough Irishman, who fully understood his business, and was helping the Chief Secretary in every possible way to do good for their unfortunate country.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time and added to the Bill.

Several hon. Members who had given notice of new Clauses not being in their places,

*Mr. SPEAKER ruled that it was not in order for these Clauses to be moved by other hon. Members.

Mr. TULLY moved a new Clause for the purpose of enabling ministers of religion to become members of local boards in Ireland. He said he regretted the action which was being taken by the hon. Member for Mid Lanark. He would like to remind him that he largely owed his seat in the House to the Nationalist vote, and when that was trembling in the balance he had gone down to help the hon. Member. He was not acting in a way calculated to retain that vote. As to this new Clause, he desired to bring about equality between the law of Ireland and the law of England and Scotland. In England and Scotland ministers of religion were entitled to be members of local boards, but in Ireland the Government had set up a barrier against them. He had always regarded that as one of the great defects of the Local Government Act. It was extremely hard that clergymen, who were often among the largest ratepayers in the district, should be disqualified, and that where corruption and jobbery went on the conservative forces of the clergy could not be employed. It ought to be borne in mind that in Irish districts the landlords, as a rule, held aloof from interference in local matters; the lawyers and the doctors were usually disqualified by the fact that they held public offices, and tradesmen could not always spare the time. The choice before the electors was consequently very limited, and it would be well not to prevent the clergyman coming forward if he thought fit. He believed that his Clause would operate in the best interests of local government. No doubt Ireland was mainly a Catholic country, and he hoped it would ever remain so. The Lord Lieutenant, in a remarkable speech in Dublin the other day, seemed to indicate an entirely new departure in dealing with Irish local affairs.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is going from the Question before the House.

MR. TULLY said his only object was his point about the clergy. It should be the object of the Government to develop the special characteristics of the Irish people and to use them as an asset in the government of the country. Why out of a feeling of bigotry should Irish clergymen be placed on a different footing to English and Scotch clergymen? Why should such a proscription be enforced against them?

New Clause (Disqualification of ministers of religion)—(*Mr. Tully*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be now read a second time."

MR. T. M. HEALY hoped the Government would give way on this matter. He believed that the adoption of the Clause would remove a rankling feeling in the country. He did not believe that the clergy of any denomination would avail themselves of the power in any numbers; but it was felt that a special disability had been created as against Ireland, and if the Government could see their way to accept the suggestion, he believed it would be regarded as a sort of Emancipation Act. It would remove a very unfair disability from one of the most useful classes of the community.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said he was entirely in sympathy with the proposal of the hon. Member. He would like to point out that under existing circumstances the priest was often the adviser of members of local authorities in circumstances of difficulty, and it would be far better that those who were willing to serve a district should not merely give advice but should be saddled with the responsibility of taking the necessary action on that advice. On that ground he supported the proposed Clause.

MR. WYNDHAM said that he felt that he owed it to hon. Members from Ireland to announce the decision of the Government at once upon this question. He did not propose to go into the merits of this proposal, although he confessed that he had been much influenced by the arguments he had heard. This was a very big change to introduce at this period of the session, for it altered the constitution of local bodies. By entertaining this proposal now they would be embarking upon a very considerable discussion. If he were speaking in a debating society he should support this Amendment, but as he was speaking with the earnest desire of saving this Bill, and passing it this session, he felt that he could not accept the Amendment. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would not feel it necessary to press his proposal.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the Chief Secretary leave it to the House to decide?

MR. WYNDHAM said he could not take that course, because, if he did, every hon. Member would feel disposed to address the House upon it. He thought that the House would do well not to pronounce any opinion upon the merits of the proposal now, but allow it to stand over until a better opportunity occurred to discuss constitutional changes of this kind.

MR. TULLY said after the sympathetic reply he had received from the Chief Secretary, he would withdraw the Clause.

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. TULLY, in moving a Clause relating to the admission of the Press to meetings of local authorities, said he hoped the Government would accept this proposal, because the one great check they had on corruption was the publicity given to public business through the Press. He moved this as much in the interests of the Unionist as the Nationalist Press.

New Clause (Admission of the Press)—(*Mr. Tully*)—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER ruled the Clause standing in the name of the hon. Member for Mid Lanark, relating to the disqualification of Justices of the Peace to act as solicitors, was out of order.

MR. CALDWELL contended that his Amendment was really to remove a disqualification imposed by the Local Government Act.

MR. SPEAKER: But practising as a solicitor does not arise under the Local Government Act.

MR. ATKINSON: There is nothing in the Local Government Act which disqualifies a solicitor in practice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Clause is out of order.

New Clause (Extension of 1 Edw. VII., c. 28, s. 3)—(*Mr. Carew*)—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added to the Bill.

New Clause (Amendment of 61 and 62 Vic., c. 37, s. 43 (3), as to Order constituting an urban district)—(*Mr. Carew*)—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added to the Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM moved an Amendment to Clause 2. He said that upon this matter he was bound by what he said in Committee, and this Amendment would carry out the pledge he gave them.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 18, at end, add 'or where any such debt, claim or demand was incurred or became due at any time between the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and one, the aforesaid time may be extended by the Local Government Board to the first day of April next after the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

(1.15.) MR. T. M. HEALY did not think the right hon. Gentleman's present proposal gave effect to what they understood was the promise he made. This was a matter in which his hon. and learned friend the Member for North Dublin was very much interested, and in his absence he had himself intended to propose an Amendment in case the Government had not put this one down. The only doubt in his mind was whether the words proposed by the Government were sufficiently wide. He took it that the Government had considered them. There had been a whole mass of these claims, which were most just, because of the very severe provisions of the Local Government Act. He might say, in regard to some of the claims rejected, that there were English decisions which, if followed, would have kept these claims alive. He thought the Government Amendment ought to be accepted, but he hoped, if the Government found in another year that the words were too narrow, they would undertake to amend the Clause.

MR. WYNDHAM said the hon. and learned Member raised some doubt in his mind as to whether this Amendment was quite a proper one. He thought a better

Clause could have been put in, but he would let this one stand at present. It would be a simple matter to amend it, and it could be put right in another place. Everybody was in favour of something being done in this direction.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Perhaps the Government will have time to amend it in the Lords.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, certainly.

Question put, and agreed to.

*MR. O'DOHERTY moved to insert in page 1, line 23, after "practitioner," the words "or a trained nurse."

MR. WYNDHAM said he would accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendments in the Clause necessitated by the introduction of the words "or a trained nurse" were also agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'vacation,' to insert the words 'or as a Crown witness at either assizes or sessions.'"—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM hoped the hon. Member would not press this Amendment. The occasions for such action must be very few, and the doctor would have in that case to be paid. It was a small matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved to insert, after "loan," in Clause 3, the following words, "for payment of any debt or discharge of any obligation existing at the time such loan was contracted." He was not to be taken as in the least degree opposing the Clause. It seemed to him that the Clause as it stood lent itself slightly to irregularities in the matter of loans. What he suggested by his Amendment was that the Clause should not apply to any general system of borrowing money. Otherwise the result would be to allow these bodies to spend money in respect of duties other than those for which the loan was absolutely contracted. It appeared to him that that would be an undesirable thing to do.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 28, after the word 'loan,' to insert the words 'for the payment of any debt or the discharge of any obligation existing at the time when such loan was contracted.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. ATKINSON thought the hon. and learned Member would see that these words were unnecessary, and that the addition of them would cause very great embarrassment. There were boards in Ireland which had overdrawn their accounts, and they had contracted loans in almost every case to meet the current bank accounts. They ought not to have done that. They ought to have raised sufficient by the rates. This Clause was introduced to enable them to raise money to pay off these overdrafts. The hon. and learned Member wished to provide that the Local Government Board should inquire whether the advance from the bank or the lender was obtained in the *bonâ fide* discharge of a local debt. That would involve an inquiry in almost every case as to the time when the loan was raised and the nature of the debt it was to discharge. If the hon. and learned Member would look at the Clause, he would see that they could not raise these loans except with the consent of the Local Government Board. Therefore, he might safely trust the Local Government Board that they would not permit local bodies to raise money to discharge loans which had been contracted for any improper purpose. He thought all danger was guarded against by the power which was conferred on the Local Government Board.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he would not press the Amendment. He must, however, say for himself that he had not that confidence in the action of the Local Government Board which the Attorney General possessed. His opinion was that they might allow improper loans to some persons because of their political complexion, and disallow them in other cases.

MR. TULLY: Will this not allow the indiscriminate raising of overdrafts?

MR. ATKINSON said the object of the Clause was to stop that.

Amendment withdrawn.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved the addition of the following at the end of Clause 5:

> "(3) Nothing in this or the last preceding section shall prejudice or affect any legal proceedings pending at the passing of this Act or commenced before the first day of August, one thousand nine hundred and two."

MR. WYNDHAM said the date should be 24th June, when the Bill was read a first time.

MR. CALDWELL hoped the Chief Secretary would accept the date stated in the Amendment. The mere introduction of the Bill was not known throughout Ireland, and, therefore, the parties could not be notified.

MR. WYNDHAM said it was not a very big point, and he would accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved to leave out Clause 6. He made the Motion for the rejection of the Clause on this basis. The Government, when this Clause was introduced, were really not aware of the compact, so to speak, of 1898, when the Local Government Bill was passed. They had not that in their mind, because the then Chief Secretary had been removed to the Board of Trade. The present Chief Secretary was not aware of the distinct bargain which existed between the Government and the Irish Members at that date in respect of these financial Clauses. He would point out that two very substantial concessions had been made on this question. The right hon. Gentleman, very late at night, when he pointed out to him that the city of Dublin was getting absolutely nothing through the Local Government Act, agreed to give him £5,000 a year, which the Government obtained from the pawnbrokers' licenses. Having obtained that concession, he pointed out, in regard to the police rate, which was collected by the local authority, that it would be unjust if they were bound by the very drastic mandamus system. He had put the wastage at 10 per cent., but after a long fight and wrangling he obtained for the County Council of Dublin and the Corporation of the city of Dublin a concession of 5 per cent. commission. He could not complain of the right hon. Gentleman being new to his office. The right hon. Gentleman was then at the War Department, and the Boer War was on, and he could not expect that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to attend to all these debates; but he regarded this Clause as a distinct breach of faith, and if the right hon. Gentleman knew all the facts of the case he was certain he would agree with him. That being so, there was an old saying that the King could not derogate from his own grant; and yet the right hon. Gentleman by this Bill proposed now to deprive the County Council of Dublin of £800 of the rates due to the old grand jury, and to take away, without any reason or argument, £600 a year more from them in regard to Phœnix Park, and to deprive them of the right of meeting in the Four Courts, where the grand jury had sat from time immemorial, and which would involve them spending £5,000 or £6,000 in building offices of their own. He would point out that the County Council of Dublin had had practically taken from them the rich urban districts, with the result that they could only rate a few towns like Balbriggan. The County Council of Dublin were compelled to maintain a slip for the coastguard on Lambay Island, which was four or five miles away from Dublin, which no citizen of Dublin ever visited, and which the farmers of the county could hardly see through a telescope. He therefore asked the right hon. Gentleman to consider the way in which they had been treated in this Bill. He himself had allowed two Clauses to pass which he had had no time to read, on which he might have had something to say; and, therefore, the right hon. Gentleman should meet him in regard to this question. The vast majority of the Irish Members had already divided against this Clause, and it would be some little solatium, at the end of this discussion, if the right hon. Gentleman would give some concession on this point, especially when it was recognised that his own Government had treated the County Council of Dublin in a very wretched way since the establishment of the Local Government Act.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 38, to leave out Clause 6."—(*Mr. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WYNDHAM said that the hon. and learned Member for North Louth possessed, perhaps in a greater degree than any other Member of the House, the powers of persuasive speech, and he had a far more intimate knowledge than he could pretend to have of the debates on this question in 1898. He had stated quite truly that the Irish Members had done their best to get this Bill through, and he was left in the difficult position of being left to the persuasive tongue of the hon. and learned Gentleman in regard to the compact entered into when the parent Act was passed. His impression was that the hon. Member for Dublin County North argued on that occasion that the Clause ought to be omitted, and that the hon. Member for Dublin County South argued that it ought to be retained. After consideration of the matter, he arrived at the conclusion that the hon. Member for Dublin County South was right, and that the hon. Member for Dublin County North was wrong. In the division which took place, thirty-one Irish Members voted in the sense which the hon. Member argued, and only eleven against it. He thought that that being the case, the hon. and learned Member was entitled to ask him to drop the Clause out of the Bill; and so, as he would sooner have the Bill than the Clause, he agreed to drop it.

Question put, and negatived.

Major JAMESON proposed to move—

"In Clause 8, page 3, line 14, to leave out from 'in,' to 'which,' in line 15, and insert 'any Act.'"

Mr. WYNDHAM said that this Amendment would add to the burden of the rates, and could not possibly be accepted.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that the effect of the Amendment, as the right hon. Gentleman had said, would be to take away the limit of rating which now existed, and therefore it was out of order.

Major JAMESON said that even if his Amendment were out of order, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give a sympathetic consideration to his proposal and bring up some Amendment at a later stage.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! There is no Question before the House.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that he could not accept the Amendment; but the Bill would have to be recommitted in respect of this Clause, and if the hon. and gallant Member liked to discuss the matter then, he would not object.

Mr. T. M. HEALY, in moving to add to Clause 8 the words,

"Or any existing officer within the meaning of the Act of 1898," said that what was felt by a great many persons was that this Clause was in the nature of class legislation.

*MR. SPEAKER: This Amendment comes under the same category as the Amendment of the hon. and gallant Member for West Clare, inasmuch as it proposes to enlarge the powers of rating.

MR. O'DOHERTY proposed to move—

"In Clause 13, page 4, line 37, after '1900,' insert 'The Employers' Liability Act, 1880, and at Common Law.'"

*MR. SPEAKER: That is open to the same objection. What is proposed by the Amendment is to enlarge the powers of rating.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether he might respectfully challenge Mr. Speaker's ruling on this matter. As he understood the Clause, it enabled the District Council to insure in cases arising out of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and his hon. friend simply desired to add "The Employers' Liability Act of 1880, and at Common Law," which was practically the same subject. This was, it was true, a matter affecting the local rates. It was to prevent the local rates being needlessly expended by a system of insurance. Though, for a moment, the rate might be increased by the amount of the insurance policy, yet, in the end, the rates might be saved by the amount of the insurance. He ventured to think that that raised rather a different issue.

*MR. SPEAKER: It might be suggested that the purchase of a steam roller would be an economical proceeding, but it would still be a charge on the rates. The matter must be dealt with in Committee and not on the Report stage.

MR. T. M. HEALY said it was a very important matter that the insurances should be effected. There were two other matters which also ought to be considered, and they would be prepared to pass the Bill before three o'clock if the Government would afford an opportunity of discussing them. There was not a great amount of business on the Paper, although, of course, their old friend the Uganda railway was entitled, he freely admitted, to a larger section of the time of the House than the Irish measure.

MR. WYNDHAM said he had no objection to the Bill being re-committed in respect of Clause 8, Clause 13, and the new Clause to be moved by the hon. Member for North Monaghan.

Bill re-committed in respect of Clauses 8 and 13, and in respect of a new Clause (Increase of contribution to county infirmaries)—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) in the Chair.]

Clause 8:—

(1.50.) MR. T. M. HEALY said that Clause 8 savoured too much of favouritism. There was an opinion, he did not himself say whether it was well-founded, that it was only a certain class of urban gentlemen in close touch with the Local Government Board who had been able to influence the Board with reference to those appointments. That was undoubtedly the feeling that prevailed. He confessed that the Clause had the appearance of class legislation, and he would therefore move to omit the Clause.

Mr. WYNDHAM said he understood that the hon. and learned Gentleman would move the Amendment standing in his name on the Paper.

Mr T. M. HEALY said he was opposed to the Clause as a whole, as it threw an undue burden on the rates in favour of a particular class. His idea was that it should be a complete instead of being a partial Clause.

*Mr. TULLY said he would appeal to his hon. and learned friend not to oppose this Clause, which was a very useful one, and would benefit a small number of officers.

Mr. WYNDHAM said he would prefer to accept the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for North Louth rather than omit the Clause.

Major JAMESON said he had an Amendment on the Paper extending the Clause.

Mr. WYNDHAM said he could not accept the Amendment of the hon. and gallant Gentleman.

Mr T. M. HEALY said as he was under an obligation not to waste time, he would accept the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman, although he objected to the Clause as a whole. He would, therefore, move his Amendment instead of moving to omit the Clause.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 18, at end, to add 'or any existing officer within the meaning of the Act of 1898.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Question, "That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Clause 13:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 37, after '1900,' to insert 'The Employers Liability Act, 1880, and at Common Law.'"—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Dr. THOMSON (Monaghan, N.) moved the following new Clause:—

"In addition to the annual amount which may be contributed by the County Council or the Council of a County Borough to any county infirmary or fever hospital under sub-section 9 of section 15 of the principal Act, any County Council or Council of a County Borough may, if they think fit, contribute in any year the whole or any part of such further amount as may be certified by an auditor of the Local Government Board to be necessary to meet any deficiency in the funds of such infirmary or hospital during that year."

Mr. WYNDHAM said he would accept the Clause.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY drew the Attorney General's attention to the fact that infirmaries were not audited by the Local Government Board, but by local auditors.

New Clause read a first and second time and added to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, in Committee and on Re-committal, considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. CALDWELL pointed out that the Bill at the present moment was in a rather curious position. Many of the new Clauses put down during the Committee stage were not moved, upon the understanding that ample opportunity would be given to consider them on Report, and that proper notice should be given of when the Report stage would be taken. It was now being proceeded with at a time when only a section, although not an unimportant section, of the Irish Members were in the House. The Chief Secretary would bear him out when he said that in order to facilitate the progress of the Bill the hon. and learned Member for Waterford said, when this Bill was before the House on the Committee stage, that they would forego the moving of those Clauses then, in the hope that the Chief Secretary would afford them an ample opportunity of considering them on Report. As for taking the Report stage of the Bill at that time, no one knew better than the hon. and learned Member for Waterford that the House was not competent to take it then. The fear of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford was that, owing to the Education Bill and other matters then before the House, he would not get sufficient time to discuss this Bill, and it was with the hope that the Government would bring on the Report at such a time that they could discuss these Clauses, that he took the action he did.

MR. WYNDHAM: And that is the reason the Bill was put down as the first Order today.

MR. CALDWELL said the Bill had been put down for today, and as it could hardly have been expected that the Irish Members would wait for a Bill of this kind when they did not know when it was coming on, when he found it would be taken he claimed on his own account that proper notice should be given to Irish Members, and if they were not here that was their affair, and not his. Further, knowing that no Member could move a new Clause on Report unless it was in his own name, he had taken the precaution of putting down several new Clauses in his own name in case it was desirable to move them, and Irish Members were not in their places to do so. He did not intend to discuss the Bill at all, but he thought it right to make that explanation.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought that the hon. Member who had just sat down had behaved nobly; he had twenty-three new Clauses on the Paper, and had not moved one of them; and he had entered into a generous defence of absent Irish Members which would no doubt have great weight in their own country. He, personally, regarded the hon. Member as the most serviceable Member of the House, and compared him with the late Mr. Biggar, who was the most valuable Member who ever sat in the House of Commons. They might, he thought, congratulate themselves on having got this Bill through. It was a Bill that was of exceptional value to Ireland, because it enabled members of County Councils to receive in regard to their travelling expenses a slight indemnity out of the rates, so that the whole question of County Government could now be considered under this Bill by a central county government authority in Dublin. If the Bill had contained nothing else he should have congratulated the Government upon it, because to that extent it had assimilated the law of Ireland with that of England. The omission of Clause 6 had amply repaid him for his journey across the Channel. He believed the Bill as a whole was a most useful measure, and reflected great credit on the wisdom of the Government. He only regretted the Government had not seen its way to allow the clergy to sit upon these bodies.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

MILITIA AND YEOMANRY BILL.

As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

OSBORNE ESTATE BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. CALDWELL thought this Bill could not possibly have been brought under the special notice of the King. He hardly thought the law could have been explained to His Majesty, or he would have been astonished at any such Bill being introduced in his name. It was a Bill of a very objectionable character. It set out the matter as if this was a gift of the Osborne Estate to the nation, when it was perfectly obvious that the interest dealt with was mainly that of a person under age, whose consent could not be set forth in the Bill. So far as the King's right to deal with this estate was concerned, that was a life interest, and he (Mr. Caldwell) had no objection to the King's dealing with that on the terms mentioned in the Bill. This House was being asked, in order to complete a gift which it was not in the power of the King himself to make, to do two things which, he ventured to say, were most objectionable, and which might form very awkward precedents in the future. The first thing he alluded to was that this House was being asked, within a very short time after the death of a person, to lay aside the Will of that person without any change of circumstances to necessitate it, and for this every hon. Member of the House who did not protest would be responsible. He thought that was a dangerous precedent, and it was asking the House too much to pass a Bill giving effect to a precedent of that kind. They were asking the House to consent to the alteration of the Will of a person recently dead, who, if she had wished to leave her estate in this particular manner, had the most ample opportunity for doing so. They were also asked to give effect to the confiscation of the patrimonial rights of another person who was not in a position to give his consent to the change—that was to say, they were to break the entail of a property by Act of Parliament, at the instance of the tenant for life, and without any acknowledgment of the rights of the tenant in tail. These were, in his opinion, very dangerous precedents. These were very serious things for the House to do, for they would form precedents which might give rise to a good deal of future misgivings in regard to the safety of property so far as the House of Commons was concerned. The other point he wished to refer to was this: The only thing the public had got to do, so far as Osborne was concerned, was to bear the expense of the upkeep. A private estate of the nature of the Osborne Estate required an immense amount of money to keep it in repair, and practically had no commercial value. When the Act of 1872 was before the House the Queen was anxious to have her rights secured as regarded her private estates. Mr. Gladstone at that time referred to the Osborne Estate, and he said that the House need not object to the Queen keeping her private estates, and he argued that they ought to give facilities to the Crown to keep those estates as private estates, because if they ever came to put them on the Imperial Treasury it would mean a heavy burden to the ratepayers. What he objected to in this Bill was that the use of the Osborne Estate was to be limited to one particular class of the community. With the exception of the house, which was in the personal occupation of Her Majesty, the whole grounds, by the words of sub-Section 4, were to be retained as a memorial to Her Majesty, but the rest of the estate was to be set aside and used for the purpose of officers, both naval and military, and their wives and families. The buildings and the whole of the grounds were to be used for the benefit of these officers. They could not call that a gift to the nation. If the Osborne Estate was to be kept up at the public expense, he did not see why it should not have been left entirely to the management of the Crown, and he did not see why it should be restricted to officers naval and military. If they were going to make a sort of Chelsea Hospital at Osborne, why not make it eligible to others? When he looked at this supposed gift to the nation, he did not think it was a very generous one. It was only the gift of the King's life interest in it, but His Majesty did not want to occupy it personally, and to that extent only it was a gift. So far as he was concerned, he merely wished to enter a protest against Parliament being asked to sanction by this Bill two principles, firstly, that they should set aside the wishes of the Queen within two years of her death without any change of circumstances; and secondly, by this Bill they were confiscating the patrimonial rights and property of those who were not in a position to give their consent to the change.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

MR. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Two o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Saturday, 13th December, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: of the United Presbytery of Auchterarder —— and the Scottish Women's Protestant Union —— Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Return showing for the year ended 31st August, 1902—

1. The number of public elementary day schools and higher elementary schools which charge fees.

2. The number of free scholars in those schools.

3. The number of scholars paying fees in those schools.

4. The school fees charged.

TRADE REPORTS:

I. Annual Series—

No. 2921. Persia (Khorassan and Sistan).

II. Miscellaneous Series—

No. 586. United States (St. Joseph, Missouri).

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

As amended, considered.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 8, after 'and' to insert 'to.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (The Marquess of Londonderry): The Amendment I now move is necessary, as the Clause applies to the application of money, not only by the education authorities under Clause 2, but by the Council of all boroughs and urban districts under Clause 3.

Amendment moved—

"In lines 28, 29, to leave out 'local education authority' and insert 'council.'"—(*The Marquess of Londonderry.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 27, to leave out 'or used.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

'In Clause 5, page 3, line 6, after 'shall' to insert 'also.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 18, after 'them' insert 'a body of managers consisting of.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

*Lord REAY asked whether it was intended that, where the local education authorities would be the Councils of urban districts or boroughs, it should not be imperative on them to appoint a body of managers for each school? Municipal control of elementary schools made this supervision by managers closely connected with the teachers in the schools, and with the parents whose children frequented the school, more important than it was under present circumstances of control by a body elected *ad hoc*.

The LORD PRESIDENT of the COUNCIL (The Duke of Devonshire): The intention is to make it clear that there is to be a body of managers appointed.

*Lord REAY: The words are "they may."

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: Yes; it is optional.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 24, to leave out 'representing local authorities.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Amendment, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 25, to leave out 'also as provided by this Act,' and insert: '(*a*) where the local education authority are the Council of a county, one by that Council and one by the minor local authority; and (*b*) where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

*LORD REAY pointed out that the words now proposed to be inserted in Clause 6 were at present in Clause 12, and asked whether it was proposed to omit them from the latter Clause.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said the provisions of Clause 12 came more conveniently in Clause 6. The reason Clause 12 was made a separate Clause was that there was no time to pass those provisions before the Adjournment in August. Clause 12 would come out entirely. There was no alteration whatever; it was simply a question of re-arrangement.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND reminded the House that in Committee the Lord Chancellor promised to look into the question as to the effect of the provision in sub-Section (*d*), that the managers of the school should provide the schoolhouse free of any charge to the local authority.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY) was not quite certain that he made himself intelligible in Committee, but the situation was this. The sub-Section which enacted that the managers should provide the school free of charge meant, of course, free of charge to the public. He should have been content to have introduced an Amendment reserving all rights notwithstanding that. But there was some difficulty in arranging that in the face of the remainder of the Bill. However, any difficulty that might arise would be entirely met by the managers themselves being called upon by the owner of the school to pay a rent to him. The question of what was the occupation of the school after it had been handed over to the managers might be a difficult one; but, so far as the statutory limitation was concerned, all that the statute required was that the managers should hand the school over to the public without any charge being made. That did not necessarily involve that the managers were not to pay rent, and if the owner of the school thought proper to exact from the managers some payment to preserve his rights, there would be no difficulty in doing so.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER moved to insert "fair" before the word "wear" in sub-Section (*d*), with the object of making the words the same as appeared in another part of the Clause.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 31, after 'to,' insert 'fair.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Manchester.*)

On Question Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER moved to insert, after "tear," "in the use of any room in the schoolhouse for the purpose of a public elementary day school." He said the object of the Amendment was to make it clear that no charge was to be made for wear and tear outside the time of public elementary education; also that the charge should only be for wear and tear that affected the interior parts of the building which were directly used by the children, and not such outside buildings as belonged rather to the person or authority owning the school.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 31, after 'tear,' to insert 'in the use of any room in the schoolhouse for the purpose of a public elementary day school.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Rochester.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER said it was necessary that some such Amendment should be inserted. In Committee he placed two Amendments on the Paper, one referring to the use of the room in school hours, and the other to the use of the room out of school hours, but in order not to embarrass the Government he dropped the latter, thereby rendering his first Resolution liable to misunderstanding. The provision required to be made clearer, and the present Amendment would effect that object.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The object of this Amendment is to make the language of the provision consistent with the language of the remainder of the Section; therefore, the Government accept it.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 42, after 'school,' insert 'house.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP asked what was the effect of the Amendment. It appeared to put the repairs in the schoolhouse on the local authority, and not on the managers.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It is a purely verbal Amendment; I am advised that it makes no substantial alteration.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): The noble Earl does not imagine that it applies to the teachers' houses.

On Question Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF MOUNT-EDGCUMBE moved to substitute for the proviso to sub-Section (6) the stipulation that where the trust deed required that religious instruction should be given in accordance with the principles or doctrines of any Church or denomination, in case any difference should arise as to the character of such religious instruction, an appeal might be made to the Bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority of such Church or denomination, whose decision should be final. He assured the House that he had not put the words on the Paper in any spirit of obstinacy, still less of disrespect or disregard for the opinion of the Lord Chancellor. He had been encouraged to move the Amendment by the assurance of the noble Earl on the Woolsack that, to a certain extent, he was in sympathy with its object, and the promise that between the Committee and Report stages he would consider its admissibility. He admitted, however, that it would be a fatal mistake to adopt this Amendment if it was likely to be rejected in the House of Commons, because they would then probably lose the valuable advantage of the words already inserted by the Lord Chancellor. The Amendment was not the same as he had moved in Committee; it did not include schools which had no trust deeds, and which he was told in Committee could not be regarded as belonging to any denomination, although they might have been maintained for thirty or fifty years by voluntary subscriptions solely for the purpose of teaching the doctrines of a particular denomination. There were some schools in the position of having had trust deeds and lost them, either owing to changes in the incumbency, or to the feeling of security engendered by long prescription. The Amendment included schools which had trust deeds identifying them with a particular denomination, but not giving this right of appeal. There were many schools in that position. One trust deed had just come under his notice in which it was said that the school was—

"For the purpose of the education of poor children in the principles of the Christian religion, according to the doctrines and discipline of the United Church of England and Ireland."

That would, he presumed, be an obsolete provision, and those schools would be in an especially difficult position, because it would be neither easy nor inexpensive to get their deeds altered, and they would consequently lose a most important safeguard against future trouble—a safeguard which Parliament ought to give them if only as a natural consequence of the interference with their trust deeds made by the present Bill in the important matter of the constitution of the managing body. He would move the Amendment, but, if the Government thought it likely to be opposed in the House of Commons, would not press it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 27, to leave out from 'that' to the end of the sub-Section and insert 'where the trust deed requires that religious instruction shall be given in accordance with the principles or doctrines of any church or denomination, in case any difference should arise as to the character of such religious instruction, an appeal may be made to the Bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority of such church or denomination, whose decision shall be final."—(*The Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe.*)

*EARL SPENCER: I have this morning had placed in my hands a letter which illustrates the difficulty there will be in applying this Clause. I must give it as I received it. I am sorry not to see the Bishop of London in his place, but probably one of the members of the right rev. Bench will be able to answer, or perhaps the noble Duke himself will be able to deal with it. I understand that there are certain parishes in which the Bishop has refused to interfere at all; I think the Bishop of Liverpool described the action as "boycotting a parish." A case arose in a parish in the diocese of London where the Bishop refused to interfere with regard to the ritual in the church, or whatever it was there was going on, of which complaint was made, or to allow any of his suffragans to interfere. What will happen in a case of that sort? The case I have before me is one in Stepney, where the incumbent resigned, and the Bishop immediately appointed one of his curates, so that the same practices go on now as before the resignation of the incumbent, and the church has been boycotted by the Bishop. That is just one of the cases in which an appeal might go to the Bishop. But if the parish is boycotted by the Bishop, how are they to get any relief at all on this question? This is a new point to me; I have not had time to verify the facts by separate reference, but it seemed to be such a peculiar case that I have ventured to put it forward. If I have been incorrectly informed, perhaps the proper version of the affair will be given.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: As far as the noble Earl's Amendment is concerned, after the deliberate determination of this House to adopt the words in the Bill which, I may point out were accepted by the whole House without a division, I do not think it would be desirable to alter the words of the Clause. In reference to the noble Earl's observations with regard to a "boycotted" parish, if he asks me what is to be done if a Bishop will not do his duty, frankly, I do not know. But I hope such an occasion will not arise. The ordinary course of the law would be open to him, but, if it is not a duty cast upon him by the law, I do not know what is to be done. But I do not think we need discuss the question, because if a dispute arose as to the character of the theological teaching, and an appeal was made to the Bishop as to whether or not it was in accordance with the doctrine of the Church of England, is it conceivable that any Bishop of the Church would refuse to do his duty in that respect?

LORD BURGHCLERE asked whether, in addition to the appeal to the Bishop, there was also an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as in other matters connected with the Church.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: No.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER explained that he had received a telegram from the Bishop of London who was ill and confined to bed. It was therefore not from any indisposition to take part in the discussion on the Bill that he was absent; nor could he have known that the noble Earl was going to bring up this matter. He could not answer for the Bishop of London on the points raised, but he imagined that any action that the Bishop might take, or abstain from taking, in the affairs of a parish in relation to things in which his intervention was perfectly voluntary, had nothing whatever to do with his formal action in official matters.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said he would not have addressed their Lordships again on this matter if the question had not been raised by others. But, as the subject was under discussion, there were two or three things he desired to say, because he did not think it was consistent with his duty to say things outside the House of Lords which he did not say inside. He made one more earnest appeal to the Government to consider whether they would not do something to preserve the clergy's right of entry into their schools. The Bill was certain to provoke a great deal of friction. If it passed they would all do their best to make it work, but surely, in the interests of the Government and of the Bill itself, it was desirable that as far as possible the causes of friction should be removed. The Amendment would not remove his objection to the Clause, but it would be an improvement. It had been said that this Clause had not been introduced in the interests of education or to safeguard the rights of denominational schools, but in order, as by a side wind, to attack a certain section of the clergy. He did not think the noble Earl could really have intended to do so, but by implication he had applied to these clergy the names of "cheats" and "smugglers." In regard to that the noble Earl might very well make some such apology as did the Bishop of Hereford with regard to the Episcopal Bench. If it were necessary to proceed against these clergy, it would be more honourable on the part of the Government to proceed against them directly than to penalise the whole for the sake of a few of the clergy of the Church of England, and to do an act of grave injustice to the whole of the Roman Catholic body in England. If the Government, in the exercise of their discretion, did not think it prudent to introduce a second edition of the Public Worship Regulation Act, it was hardly consistent to do by a side wind what they thought it unwise to attempt directly.

As to the Episcopate, everything that had happened in connection with the Bill showed the extreme imprudence of the course they had taken. They were warned at the time by their friends against bringing in the Clause for the two-thirds of the managers, and it had been proved that it was intended by the Kenyon-Slaney Clause to put the religious instruction in denominational schools under the control of those who might not belong to the Church of England. Was it too much to ask their Lordships, whatever arrangements they might have made with the Government, to stand up and say that these things were not consistent with the principles of the Church of England? What had been the consequence of their action? They had had to appeal to the Government to undo that for which they themselves were partly responsible, and had met with a denial. The price the Church had had to pay for the mistake of the Bishops was the sacrifice of the rights of the whole of the English clergy, and also of the whole Catholic body in England. He fully admitted—in fact it could not be otherwise, as none were infallible—that here and there mistakes had been made by the clergy, though the noble Duke himself had admitted that they were few and far between. But, whatever he might think with regard to those mistakes, he would cut off his right hand before he would help to throw to the lions, as was here being done, those who had been unjustly attacked. And what lions they were! The Bishops had been very sensitive as to the things said about the Episcopal Bench; they knew how perfectly unjust had been the attacks voiced by Dr. Clifford and others. Only two days before, he had received the parody of a hymn, entitled "The Church's New Foundation," in which the Episcopate were represented as rejoicing at the strain put upon Nonconformists, and as caring about nothing but gold. Everyone knew that such statements were untrue. But exactly the same kind of thing had been said about certain of the clergy, also for ulterior and political purposes. Very often a half truth was a whole lie. Those who were now being attacked were the representatives of Pusey and Keble. Every day of his life Dr. Pusey celebrated Holy Communion in his own house at Christ Church. That was the kind of thing that would now be represented throughout the country, for the purpose of casting odium on certain of the clergy who were among the most hard-working in the Church, as "solitary masses," and so forth. Mr. Keble left it on record, in a letter to Sir John Coleridge in 1844, that he thought one of the things most to be deplored in the administration of the Church of England was the way in which her authorities had allowed habitual and systematic confession to fall into disuse. Whether they thought Dr. Pusey and Mr. Keble right or wrong, they could not draw a distinction between their teaching and the teaching of the clergy who were now being unjustly attacked. It was admitted on all sides that Dr. Pusey and Mr. Keble did an enormous work for the Church of England, and all he would say further was that, by the course the House were taking, they were building the tombs of the prophets and stoning their children.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD could not follow the relevancy of the speech of the noble Viscount to the Amendment under discussion, nor did he think that the allegations of attacks on the clergy were upheld by the facts. No one in the House had attacked the clergy of the Church of England. All who lived in rural districts appreciated the proper and due influence of the clergy, and there was no desire whatever to attack their rightful authority or supremacy. What they wished was that that authority and supremacy should be won by worth and work, and not be created simply by an Act of Parliament by which the clergy were placed over the heads of the laity. That would be clericalism of the worst description, and it was that that the noble Viscount was supporting. He wished the noble Viscount would recollect that it was that kind of arrogant demand for clerical supremacy that had destroyed one Church in this country, and, if his views should ever prevail, would not destroy but certainly wound the Church of England, and reduce it to a level of inutility. The House were entitled to protest against the charge of attacking the clergy of the Church. What they wished to do was to give them the fullest opportunity of doing good amongst particular communities, but not to give them the fictitious supremacy resulting from an Act of Parliament, by which they were placed in a position abhorrent to the feelings of the people of the country.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER thought it would not be right to allow what had been said to pass without notice. He thought the noble Lord hardly knew what the currents of feeling were, if he did not realise that, quite apart from the question of party, it was widely felt as an injury done to the clergy at large that any group of managers should be able to withhold from an incumbent the power to teach in his own school. Instances had been given in the debate of how easily that might be done from motives of spite, or motives of difference of opinion on questions like temperance, which had no relation whatever to the matters which had now been again introduced into the debate. He must own that he was greatly surprised that the noble Viscount should not only have again raised this question, which he was well entitled to do, but should have carried them so far afield as he had done. He could not follow him into the topics which he had raised, and he would be sorry to do so, though he must confess, if he spoke his candid mind, that he regarded it as not altogether surprising that a person who held the opinions which the noble Viscount held should have been stung by some of the words spoken the other night in debate, which certainly had little enough to do with the Bill as an Education Bill. But the noble Viscount had said one thing which touched the Bill, and as it affected the conduct of the Episcopal Bench, he would just refer to it. The noble Viscount had charged the Bishops with committing a great mistake and a great imprudence in assenting to the Clause which gave two-thirds of the managers to the original denomination to which the school belonged, and left one-third to the public authority. He would say nothing on the merits of the Clause, or the wisdom of the action of the Bishops, but it was a matter of public notoriety, quoted not once but ten times in the course of this debate, that the decision was one which was come to by the whole representative body of the Church, so far as the Church at present had one, for it was part of the resolution of the Joint Committee of Convocation. His impression also was that it was acquiesced in by the Houses of Laymen. He was not saying what the value of the recommendation might be; he was simply saying that the Bishops were not acting on their individual responsibility, but as the mouthpieces of the whole body, as far as it was constitutionally organised. The noble Viscount had charged them with imprudence. Under the category of imprudence there might be other things to say.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"Page 6, line 14, after 'section' to insert as a new sub-Section, 'Any transfer of a public elementary school to or from a local education authority shall for the purposes of this Section be treated as the provision of a new school.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE said that if he was right in his interpretation this was a somewhat important proviso. It laid down that the transfer of a school was to be treated as the provision of a new school, and would bring into operation all the provisions in regard to the setting up of a new school as set out in Clause 8. He asked whether the proviso was to be in addition to, or in substitution of the powers given under Clause 23 of the Act of 1870. To put a concrete case, suppose a voluntary school in poor circumstances, by taking advantage of the Transfer Clause of the Act of 1870, had transferred itself to the School Board, and had been carried on by the board for four or five years. Owing to the better financial position in which it would be placed by this Bill in being maintained by the rates, that school might ask to be re-transferred, and all the conditions of setting up a new school would come into force. In such a case, there would be a transfer under the Act of 1870, with the consent of the managers, but under the proviso of the noble Duke the ten ratepayers would come in, and, although having nothing on earth to do with the voluntary school, might stop the re-transfer. He desired to know whether he was right in his interpretation of the proviso, because, if so, it made a considerable difference in the matter of the transfer of schools, and completely altered the Act of 1870.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The transfer of a denominational school to the local education authority on the one hand, or the re-transfer to a body of denominational managers of a school previously transferred to a School Board on the other, would have the effect of substituting an undenominational for a denominational school in the one case, and of substituting a denominational for an undenominational school in the other. It appears to be in accordance with the principle of the Bill, that the same safeguards as are provided by the Clause for the erection of new schools should apply to these cases of transfer or re-transfer. I understand that the Prime Minister in the House of Commons promised, in so many words, that Clause 24 of the Act of 1870, which deals with re-transfers, should be repealed. Since then, however, it has been considered that the matter would be better dealt with by an Amendment such as I am now proposing; consequently, it will not be necessary to repeal the Clause referred to. I think that is the point, is it not?

LORD BURGHCLERE: Yes. I merely wanted to know whether it was in addition to, or in substitution of, the provision of the Act of 1870.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 12."—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

EARL BEAUCHAMP, who had given notice of a series of Amendments by which the Board of Education would be enabled to compel the local education authority to provide such additional public school accommodation as the Board thought necessary for higher as well as elementary education, in moving the first, pointed out that under the Bill there was no penalty against ignorant or reactionary authorities who might refuse to put into operation the powers given them for the purpose of assisting higher education. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment so that some machinery should be provided by which to prevent authorities breaking with impunity the clear intention of the Bill.

Amendment moved:

"After Clause 16, page 10, insert 'Part IV. (General).'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am afraid it is impossible to assent to this Amendment; in fact, I have an Amendment down to Clause 17 in exactly the opposite direction. I propose to make it clear that the provisions of Clause 17 apply only to the failure on the part of the authority to provide the necessary amount of elementary school accommodation. The question was raised in Committee by my noble friend, Lord Harris, as to whether the provision as to mandamus and so on would apply to a County Council in the event of their failing to provide the necessary amount of secondary school accommodation. That certainly was not the intention, and although we do not think it is contained in the Bill, I propose to make it clear by the insertion of certain words in Clause 17. Under the Bill as it stands the duties of the local education authority in respect of secondary education are confined to consultation with the Board of Education, and to taking such steps, as, after that consultation, the authority may deem to be desirable. That being the intention of the Bill, it would be absurd to propose to proceed by mandamus to compel a person to do what he thinks necessary.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 12, after 'accommodation,' to insert 'within the meaning of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

EARL BEAUCHAMP moved to insert new sub-Sections requiring a local education authority to provide such officers, servants, buildings, furniture, and other things as were necessary for the execution of the duties of any education committee established by them, and to pay the expenses of executing those duties; and providing that any officer appointed by the Board of Education might attend any meeting of an education committee and take part in the proceedings, but not have a right to vote. He explained that the object of the first proposal was to help the education committee by forcing the local education authority to provide the necessary officers for the execution of the duties laid upon it. It was not unlikely that a County Council would be a reactionary body, and he proposed to import into the Bill a section from the Government measure of 1896, with the hope that His Majesty's Ministers, having thought such a provision necessary in 1896, would consider it necessary in 1902. The second proposal had for its object co-ordination. There had been much talk of the co-ordination of the various local authorities, but the object of the second part of his Amendment was to secure the co-ordination of the local authority with the Board of Education. The co-ordination of the local authorities would be incomplete and insufficient unless at the same time the Board of Education knew what was going on. The Government, by assenting to the Amendment, would enable not only the Board of Education to know what was being done by the local authorities, but also the local authorities to know the aim and policy of the Board of Education. As these sub-Sections were entirely practical and in no sense controversial, he hoped the Government would accept them.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 36, after sub-Section (2) to insert the following new sub-Sections: (3) A local education authority shall provide such officers, servants, buildings, furniture and other things as are necessary for the execution of the duties of any education committee established by them, and shall pay the expenses of executing those duties. (4) Any officer appointed in that by the Board of Education may attend any meeting of an education committee, and take part in the proceedings, but shall not have a right to vote.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Both of these provisions are quite unnecessary. The expenses of the education committee will be the expenses of the Council, and it is not in the least necessary to enact that the Council should provide such officers as are necessary, as that is the duty of the education authority without any special provision. As to the proposal that any officer appointed by the Board of Education should be able to attend any meeting of an education committee, I do not think it would be desirable to give the Board of Education the power of intruding, by means of these officers, upon the meetings of these committees. It is perfectly open to the Board of Education to suggest that one of their officers should have an opportunity of consulting the committee, and it is still more probable that the committee would desire the attendance of such an officer; but I do not think it necessary, expedient, or scarcely decent, that the Board of Education should have the power of sending an officer against the wish of the committee to take part in its deliberations.

LORD BURGHCLERE said that in London there were in various schools correspondents or clerks with whom the central authority kept in touch. If that was found desirable in London, it would probably be far more so in the country, as otherwise the central authority would not know what was going on in the various schools.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 39, to leave out 'who shall also,' and insert 'and the persons so appointed shall.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF, in moving an Amendment to provide for the nomination of representatives on the education committees by "associations of voluntary schools approved for that purpose by the Board of Education," apologised for recurring to the question, but the words introduced by the Government during the Committee stage, for which he was extremely grateful, did not quite realise the hopes that had been entertained after the statement of the Prime Minister on the point in another place. The present effect of the Clause was that the scheme of the County Council should, where it appeared desirable—he presumed that meant where it appeared desirable to the Council—include a nominee of the Voluntary Schools Association. He was afraid, however, that a great many County Councils would not consider it desirable to have on their education committees representatives of Roman Catholic schools. He was fully aware that there was a kind of appeal to the Board of Education, inasmuch as the Board had to approve of the scheme. The Board might say to a County Council, "We think you ought to include a representative of the Association of Roman Catholic Schools," but that would be a very undesirable task to throw upon them. It was not easy for the Board of Education to interfere with the deliberate opinion of such a body as a County Council, and to say, "Although you think it is not desirable, we think it is, and we should use compulsion to have it inserted in the scheme." By the Amendment he now proposed, however, the Board of Education would be masters of the situation in the first instance, without running counter to the decision or opinion of the County Council. If, for instance, the Board thought that in a particular county or borough, because the Catholic schools were not sufficiently numerous or important, or because of any other circumstance, there was no need of a special representative, all they would have to say was, "We will not approve of any association for the purpose of nominating a member of the education committee in this district." On the other hand, where they thought it desirable, they would approve of an association, and that association would have the right, without reference to the opinion of the County Council, to nominate a member. He attached considerable importance to the Amendment. It would give the right to nominate, not to all associations of voluntary schools, but only to such associations as the Board of Education approved, and the Board need approve of an association only in those instances in which they thought a representative should be on the committee to prevent injustice being done.

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 1, after 'nomination' to insert 'of associations of voluntary schools approved for that purpose by the Board of Education, and"—(*Viscount Llandaff.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am afraid it is impossible to go further in this matter than we have already done. I am informed that any further concession in the direction of providing representation on these bodies of small denominational minorities would be likely to excite a great deal of jealousy and opposition on the part of the other House of Parliament. I conceive that this matter must, in the end, be a matter of administration and arrangement between the county authorities and the Board of Education. It would be, in the first instance, for the county authority to propose a scheme for the formation of its education committee. I do not apprehend that there will be, generally speaking, such indisposition on the part of those authorities to give fair and adequate representation on the committees to any denominational minority. If they neglect to make such provision, and if the Board of Education think that the interests of any minority are disregarded, it will be the duty of the Board of Education to suggest a way in which they think that representation ought to be given. The matter must then be settled between the Board of Education and the authority, and having suggested, as the Government have suggested in the Bill, that the representation of associations of schools may be a very desirable way of accomplishing this object, I do not think it is possible to go further in the direction of imposing on the county authority a provision which they may be unwilling to accept.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH thought there was one point which ought to be cleared up. When this subject was under discussion in Committee, some doubt arose as to how far County and Borough Councils would have the power of refusing to accept any person who was nominated by these other bodies. The noble Duke was not altogether clear on this subject, but he found that in another place it was distinctly stated that the Councils would have it entirely in their power to reject a given person nominated by the other bodies. He would like to know if they were to understand that, after consideration, that was the view adopted by the Government.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think it would be rather inexpedient for me to attempt to give a decision as to the exact meaning of these words. If the noble Lord thinks any point is obscure, I conceive it is for him to suggest some Amendment. No answer that I can give will read anything into the provisions of the Bill which they do not already contain.

LORD RIBBLESDALE reminded the noble Duke that he moved an Amendment suggesting the substitution of the word "recommendation" for "nomination," so as to make it quite clear that the County Council had the right of refusing, and that the Amendment was not accepted by the Government.

*THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: The County Council will not have the power to reject the nominee unless the person nominated is obviously disqualified for the position.

*LORD REAY pointed out that this interpretation was exactly the opposite of that given to "appointment on the nomination" in another place.

THE EARL OF MORLEY thought they ought to be quite clear on this point. As he understood the Clause, it was that the appointment of these nominees was to be under a scheme proposed by the local education authority and approved by the Board of Education. If, under the scheme, the nomination by certain bodies was provided for, the local education authority would have no option of refusing the persons who might be nominated. That he understood to be the meaning of the Clause.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved to insert the words "to the Council" after the word "desirable," so as to remove any doubt as to what it was exactly that the phrase, "where it appears desirable," meant.

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 2, after 'desirable,' insert 'to the Council.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: This Amendment will place the selection of "other bodies" entirely in the hands of the Council, and will prevent the Board of Education from exercising effectual supervision in the interests of minorities and may possibly lead to local friction.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that according to the opinion expressed in Committee by the Lord Chancellor, the words were necessary. He did not understand the answer, but he would not press the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 15, after 'county,' insert 'any of.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 17, leave out 'under this Act,' and insert 'so relinquished.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD moved the insertion of a new Clause providing that, subject to the approval of the Board of Education, the County or Borough Council might, if they thought it desirable, make attendance at a reasonable number of continuation classes compulsory, either over the whole of their area or over any specified portion of it, for young persons under seventeen years of age and no longer attending school or receiving other equivalent instruction. His desire was that the noble Duke should accept the Clause and send it down for discussion in the other House as one of their educational ideals. He knew nothing that was so much needed as something of this kind. As things stood at present, they sent out their boys, on the average at about twelve years of age, into a sort of no-man's educational land, and they did not know what became of a great many of them. To say nothing of the waste involved, in the country many of these boys were a great source of anxiety to the clergy and to all who wished well to the community, while in the towns there was no such source of hooliganism as the children who, at twelve or thirteen years of age, went no man knew where. These were the most critical years, very often, of a boy's life—the most impressionable and teachable years if they kept these lads within good influences; and yet they left them to drift away just at the age when they were carefully inquiring about the best schools and the best influences for their own sons.

Again, to look at the question from another point of view, from every platform lamentations were heard as to the loss of trade and industry this country was suffering, but as long as the present system went on that loss was inevitable. He quoted from a Yellow-book issued by the Education Department showing how the question stood between us and Germany. For instance, a distinguished educationist in Berlin, who was not an advocate of universal compulsion, said that amid the development of civilisation among the nations the idea of the continuation school was making its way with increasing strength; that, urgently required by the conditions of social organisation, and, in its turn, acting on them, the new institution appeared in many forms, and took its place side by side with the church and the school. Then again, Mr. Dale, the distinguished principal of Liverpool College, and a son of the late Dr. Dale of Birmingham, reminded the Department in his report on education in Saxony that in 1891 an Imperial law was passed in Germany, under which masters in any branch of industry were bound, in the case of their workers under the age of eighteen to allow their attendance at institutions recognised by the authorities of their district as continuation schools, and to allow them the time fixed as necessary for instruction by the authorities. Municipal authorities were free to adopt that law, and attendance at continuation classes had consequently been made compulsory in eight of the German States; and no excuse for absence from such instruction was to be held valid except personal sickness or contact with infectious disease. In Saxony there was a population of 3,780,000, and about 91,000 scholars attended the continuation schools. In Würtemburg, with a population of 2,000,000, the number of girls attending the schools was larger than the boys; but there were 100,000 young persons attending the evening continuation schools. It was not surprising, in view of these efforts in education, that the industry and commerce of Germany should be forging ahead. The population of Saxony and Würtemburg was probably not much greater than that of London and the surrounding districts, but there was an enormous difference as regarded the number of young persons under systematic and regular instruction. He hoped the Amendment would receive the sympathetic consideration of the House. His Motion in Committee was sympathetically supported by Viscount Goschen and Lord James of Hereford, but it was urged that the new authority should be allowed an opportunity of "feeling its feet." His Amendment would leave the Councils a perfectly free hand, without imposing any additional burdens upon them, and surely they could feel their feet just as easily if they had their hands free. County Councils were not educational infants just learning to walk. He had received letters from them asking him to press this matter, and promising to make some reasonable experiments. He believed it was true conservatism to allow local bodies, where circumstances required it, a free hand to make wise, careful, and beneficent experiments of this description, and he hoped the House would support his proposal.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 22, to insert as a new Clause: 'Subject to the approval of the Board of Education, the County or Borough Council may, if they think it desirable, make attendances at a reasonable number of continuation classes compulsory, either over the whole of their area or over any specified portion of it, for young persons under seventeen years of age and no longer attending school or receiving other equivalent instruction."—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: This is really a proposal, with certain limitations, to extend the Act for compulsory attendance of children at school from the age of fourteen to the age of seventeen. Now this may be an extremely desirable subject for your Lordships or the other House of Parliament to discuss on any suitable opportunity, but I submit that that opportunity is not the present one. This Bill is quite large enough. It deals with most important questions of the reorganisation of education authority and the management of schools, but it does not profess, and I think it would have been very unwise if its framers had proposed that it should profess, to alter in any degree the law as to school attendance. That is a great deal too large a question to be added to the already large and important questions which are dealt with in this Bill. If the Bill, when it was introduced into the other House, had contained such a provision as this, I venture to say that it would have occupied not only a period of eight months in discussion, but it would probably have been discussed over a period of twelve months. Therefore without expressing an opinion as to the desirability of a great extension of the age of compulsory attendance, I venture to think that your Lordships will not think it necessary at the present time to discuss the proposal that has been made by the right rev. Bishop. The County Council, although I believe that, as the right rev. Prelate has said, they are tolerably well prepared already to deal with questions of education which may come before them, would, I am quite sure, prefer that they should obtain some experience of the new duties which are imposed upon them and should obtain some familiarity with the kind of work which is now for the first time being entrusted to them, before they wished to be asked to consider a question so important and far reaching as this. I venture to think, therefore, that it is unnecessary. I trust the House will not be disposed to discuss this question at length upon this Amendment.

*EARL SPENCER: I only wish to say two or three words upon this Amendment. I confess that I think there is a great deal of force in what the noble Duke says as to the very large nature of the proposal that the right rev. Prelate has brought before us; no doubt it is a great innovation, and perhaps this is a late time to introduce it in the Bill, on Report of Amendments in Committee. But I should like to point out that this is a permissive arrangement; it is not compulsory on County Councils to do this; and I for one am glad that the right rev. Prelate has called attention to the matter, because I think that one of the greatest blots that we have in our educational system in this country is the falling back from what the children have learnt at elementary schools when they are put very early to work, and that really should be remedied by giving power to compel the children to go to continuation schools. It is a matter of the utmost importance, and therefore although I hardly think the right rev. Prelate should persevere with his Amendment now, I am very glad that he introduced it, and I hope that in the near future this very important matter will be taken up and some satisfactory solution be proposed for it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 14, line 41, to leave out from the first 'education' to the end of the sub-Section."—(*The Lord President.*)

*LORD REAY: This is an extremely important Amendment. The words in the sub-Section, "where any part of the education given is other than instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic," were introduced in another place on the 28th November under the Closure Rule. Therefore they have never been discussed.

When I rose in Committee to discuss them, the noble Duke asked me to defer my observations until the Report stage. I think your Lordships will admit that discusion is fully justified. These words which the noble Duke proposes to omit are of a most extraordinary nature. They do not even go as far as the Code of 1871, in which Code 4s. was given for each pass in reading, writing and arithmetic, but in addition 3s. was given for each pass in any two other subjects. In 1871 it was considered desirable that in a day school more than reading, writing, and arithmetic should be taught. Now it is quite true that the words "evening school" are used and not the words "evening continuation school." Perhaps it was intended to substitute for an evening continuation school or an evening preparatory school, because that is the only school in which, I should think, such instruction, limited to reading, writing, and arithmetic, might be useful. I cannot understand why in an elementary evening school you should not at all events be allowed to teach the same subjects which are prescribed for the elementary day school in the Code. It seems to me quite clear that an evening school will be frequented by those who have left the day school, and if the day school has not altogether failed in its object then you must presuppose that at all events in reading, writing, and arithmetic the children are so far proficient that you can teach them the other subjects which can be taught in the day schools according to the last Code. I need only mention three subjects—Latin, French, and German—which can be taught in the day school, and which would be excluded under this strange proviso. I can well understand that these words — reading, writing, and arithmetic — are to be deleted. They are a travesty of the admirable work hitherto performed in evening continuation schools. They are of such a nature that they seem to take us back to the dark ages. I suppose that by the Amendment all evening schools are to be made a part of secondary education. Now, what is the result of this transfer of elementary teaching in evening schools to Part II. of this Bill? Hitherto you have had unlimited power of rating for elementary evening schools. In future in counties this power will be restricted under the well known limit of 2d., with the unlikely addition to the rate mentioned in sub-Section 1 of Clause 2, and with the addition of 1d. under Clause 3 in non-county boroughs or urban districts. It is quite clear that you impose a limitation on the creation and financial support of elementary evening schools which does not exist at present, and although, to make attendance at evening schools compulsory, the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate on Clause 4 was negatived, I think that it may be held, as was pointed out in Committee by two noble Lords on the other side, that the creation of elementary evening schools should not be made difficult, but made as easy as possible. Under this Amendment, undoubtedly, difficulties will arise. You will not allow elementary evening schools to be independently constituted.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Why not?

LORD REAY: You take them out of Part III. of this Bill. What will be the result? The Government—and for that concession I am grateful—accept the age limit of sixteen; but if you draw the line at sixteen that strengthens the case in favour of allowing evening schools to remain under the elementary provisions of this Bill. Take London. In London, a child of twelve years passing the 7th standard can be allowed to seek employment. Such a child, therefore, could go to an elementary evening school (if you leave it in the Bill) from twelve to sixteen. In Scotland, the Act of 1901 "to regulate the employment and attendance of children at school" provides in Section 3 that—

> "It shall be lawful for any School Board, where, after due inquiry in each case the circumstances seem to justify such exemption, to grant exemption from the obligation to attend school to individual children over twelve years of age, for such time and upon such conditions, if any, as to the amount and manner of further attendance at school until the age of fourteen, as the School Board shall think fit."

In Scotland a child having obtained the merit certificate may be allowed to seek employment, but the School Board can impose the condition that it shall attend an evening continuation school. Such a proviso would have met to a great extent the object contemplated by the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Hereford on Clause 4. I would urge the noble Duke to accept the Amendment of the Bishop of Hereford on this sub-Section, which leaves the elementary evening schools in the Bill under exactly the same conditions as the day schools.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: I confess that in the interests of the education of these young children, I greatly prefer my own Amendment to that of the noble Duke, and I had hoped that inasmuch as my Amendment runs in the direction of the Code for elementary education, it might have commended itself to the Government. In Section 35 of the instructions issued to inspectors under the Code there is a direct encouragement given for the teaching of certain specific subjects—the subjects therein described as subjects "which seem most appropriate to the industrial and other needs of the district." That is just the kind of elementary subject which will be valuable to these children on leaving school—elementary subjects which are suitable to them in common life. It is just by that kind of teaching that in many parts of the continent you have towns growing up, with their own special industries, bringing them up to great perfection. I had hoped that some satisfactory Amendment would have been adopted, but the Amendment proposed by the noble Duke amounts to nothing less, if I understand it, than to transferring the whole of our evening continuation system to the category of secondary school teaching. I think that this is practically a great mistake to make, and I feel that it is a mistake in this respect that it tends to impoverish the teaching power of continuation schools, because it brings us in our rural districts under the operation of the 2d. rate. As a matter of fact, the County Councils will have hardly anything to spend on continuation schools unless they go for leave, and I do not know whether they will get leave or not. It is putting a spoke in the wheel of the continuation school machinery, and making it more difficult for a County Council to do its work than it otherwise would be. I greatly regret this change. I do not know how it may act in boroughs, because there they have a free hand with regard to expenditure, but in my own district it must inevitably act as a deterrent. There is just one other remark I would venture to make, and that is that, seeing that it has been held up to us that one of the main objects of this Bill is to create one authority for these different grades of education, the elementary and the secondary education (though you may call it by two different names it is all part of one system of education and all in the hands of one authority) then what in the world is the necessity for such extremely careful and minute delimitation? Why not leave the authority more freedom as to the exact limitation between one kind of instruction and another? You may depend upon it that if you wish to have the work well done it is best to give a free hand to the men whose duty it is to do it, and all these hampering conditions only tend to make the machine something like a cogwheel machine which will never run freely.

*EARL SPENCER: As I read the Clause, if the words the noble Duke proposes to leave out are left out, it would mean simply this—that in a rural village, far away from any secondary school, it will be impossible in an evening school to carry on elementary education at all. That seems to me the simple meaning of the proposal of the continuation classes—it would throw the education under the other authority. I think that that would be a very serious matter. If these words are omitted the sub-Section will read—

> "In this Act and in the Elementary Education Acts the expression 'elementary school' shall not include any school carried on as an evening school under the regulations of the Board of Education."

It seems to me quite clear that that would prevent any boys after they had finished their primary education going back to an evening school in their own parish—and they could not go further off than their own parish—to get this elementary education.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH appealed to the noble Duke to consider the Amendment standing next in the name of the Bishop of Hereford, namely to leave out "instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic" and insert "elementary instruction." If that Amendment were adopted it would prevent the misunderstanding the noble Earl had just pointed out might arise.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: This is no doubt a very important and rather complicated question. The present Amendment, and some consequential Amendments which I propose to move, will restore the Clause more or less, if not entirely, to the proposals made in the original Bill, but which were modified in Committee in the House of Commons. The matter is so complicated that I think I had better read a short statement of what I believe will be the state of the case after these Amendments are adopted. The new authorities, whether county or borough, as the successors of the School Boards, will be the elementary authorities over the whole country, and they are bound to supply public elementary day schools and to provide elementary instruction in them under the Education Code, whether the schools are provided by them or not; and they are obliged to provide that instruction for all children up to the end of their fifteenth year. The funds at the disposal of the authorities for this purpose are the grants by the Board of Education and an unlimited rate. But the purposes to which that rate can be applied are strictly limited to those which I have stated. The same authorities, however, are the successors of the authorities existing under the Technical Instruction Acts, but with extended and larger powers; and, as such, it will be their duty to supply or aid the supply of education other than elementary, and this duty includes the provision of elementary education for all persons over 15 years of age. But this duty is not compulsory upon them, and is to be performed only within the limits of their own discretion. For this latter purpose the funds at their disposal are the grants of the Board of Education and a rate, unlimited in county boroughs and limited in counties to 2d. or such higher rate as, with the assent of the Local Government Board, they may think fit. Now, my Lords, after that I do not understand why the noble Earl opposite thinks that it would be impossible for a boy after he has left school to continue to be educated in an evening continuation school. The evening continuation school, no doubt, cannot be provided for out of the unlimited rate which the county authority has to spend, but it will be in the power of the county authority to provide, and it will be their duty, after consultation with the Board of Education, to provide such evening continuation schools, and of such a character—including evening schools in which the instruction is purely elementary—as in their judgment they may think necessary to continue the education of scholars who have left the day elementary schools. I have endeavoured to make this point as clear as I can. We believe that under the proposals of the right rev. Prelate we should be involving ourselves in all those difficulties and complications which produced the Cockerton case, and we believe that it is more simple and more advantageous to draw a clear line of distinction between those duties which are to be discharged by the education authority, and which can be provided for out of the unlimited rate, and those which are optional and which are to be provided for out of the limited rate. I think that the authorities will not find any difficulty in carrying out the plan thus simplified, and I believe that on the whole it will be found to be the best solution of this question. If I fail to make the intention of the Amendment clear, perhaps, although it might be irregular, I might be permitted to give a further explanation to your Lordships.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I think the House will admit that the question is an exceedingly complicated one, and the very short time that we have had the noble Lord's Amendment in our hands has made it very difficult for us to understand what it means.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: We go back very nearly to the original proposal of the Bill as introduced.

LORD BURGHCLERE: As I understand, the point that was made by my noble friend Lord Reay is correct, that the boys who want to get elementary education in the evening schools would practically come under higher education; is that so?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Yes.

LORD BURGHCLERE: That being so, it is obvious that the rate which can be levied to help them is the limited rate, not the unlimited rate.

*THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: It is unlimited in the boroughs.

LORD BURGHCLERE: But I am talking of the county schools. In our point of view this is a most important matter in rural villages, in the case of boys of neglected education who wish to get on.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: There is the grant.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: And it is not a hard and fast rule.

LORD BURGHCLERE: In these schools what has really happened is this. Under your Amendments to this Bill, as I ventured to point out on the Second Reading, you brought about a great confusion in your finance and your managers. The occasion will arise when you have two sets of boys. One, boys who are backward and wish to get on, will be paid for out of the elementary education funds; and the other, boys who are trying to get more forward, will be paid for out of the higher education fund. That must lead to great complication and confusion. This Amendment of the noble Duke remedies that defect, but, at the same time, it does not meet our point, which is that you are not able to carry on these evening schools under the unlimited rate, but that you have to carry them on in the counties under the higher education rate.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: It seems to me that the decision that the Government have come to, to introduce this new Amendment, is a very serious one, and is especially serious, I think, to us who are anxious about the secondary education of the country. The effect of this Amendment is undoubtedly to throw a still further duty on to the secondary education authority, and still further to reduce the funds at their disposal for the purposes of secondary education. I will put aside for the moment the question of the boroughs. It is true that the boroughs have the power of raising an unlimited rate. The counties have not such a power. The counties have at their disposal the whisky money and the 2d. rate if they choose to levy it. Before, the county authorities had only technical education to deal with, and for that purpose they had the whisky money to use; but you have enormously increased the area of the work of the county secondary authority. They have still to provide all that technical education, for which I think the whisky money was not at all too much, and they have to provide for all secondary education, and now you lay on them the further duty of providing elementary education of a continuation character.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: They are doing it now.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: They cannot do it out of the whisky money.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Oh yes!

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: The law at present is perhaps open to some doubt; lawyers in one part of the country say one thing, and lawyers in another part say another thing; but as I understand it, the whisky money is only available for technical education, and is not available for elementary education—reading, writing, and arithmetic.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My noble friend was anxious apparently to explain the situation, but I believe my statement is perfectly right. The County Council authority at the present moment can use the whisky money for the purpose of technical education, and that largely includes secondary education, but they cannot apply the whisky money for the purpose of elementary education. I think I am right in that. I say, therefore, that by this Amendment you propose to add enormously to the duties of the secondary education authorities in the counties, and you are not increasing the funds for that purpose. This Amendment also cuts out the Amendments proposed by the right rev. Prelate opposite. As the Bill stood, at any rate, secondary schools would include evening schools where reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught. That has been cut out. Now we wish, undoubtedly, that elementary education should receive rather a wider interpretation than being confined to the three Rs; that also we are deprived of. I may say I think it is rather hard that a proposal of this sort should have been sprung upon us at this late hour of the day, on Report. It is all very well to say that this proposal existed in the original Bill as introduced into the House of Commons, but we were not cognisant of the Bill as it entered the House of Commons, and the time we have had before us in this House has certainly been an all too short one. I confidently expect that we shall get some support from the other side of the House from those who are anxious to see secondary education given as usefully and as completely as possible in our counties, and I hope that some noble Lords opposite and some of the right rev. Prelates will assist us in opposing the Amendment proposed by the noble Duke.

LORD MONKSWELL: I would suggest, my Lords, that this is a Privilege Amendment; it lessens the elementary education rate, and it interferes with rating all over the country. The effect of the Amendment will be that a certain amount of the rate for elementary education will be transferred to the rate for secondary education, and as the rate for secondary education is limited the effect will be to limit the amount that is now payable under this Bill in respect of education.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: I have complete sympathy with the wishes to which eloquent expression has been given by Lord Reay and by the Bishop of Hereford and other noble Lords, but I honestly fail to see why, if the Government Amendment is carried, it will be difficult—certainly it will not be impossible—to carry on to a far greater degree than at present the continuation work which is referred to. The expression has constantly been used today that only an absolutely limited rate can in future be levied in the county. I speak under correction, but surely it is in the power of any County Council who wishes to levy a heavier rate to obtain leave from the Local Government Board to do so. The Borough Council, we all admit, is unlimited, but the County Council is limited to this extent—that it cannot go beyond the limit laid down without applying to the Local Government Board; but if the County Council desire to raise money further in that way it can go to the Local

Government Board for leave. But, my Lords, will the County Council really require more than this 2d. rate even if it extends by many times what is being done at present for this particular purpose? I should be surprised if it were so. I believe I am right in saying that at this moment in evening continuation schools in London itself, where the boys and girls learn Spanish, mensuration, Italian, and an immense variety of scientific and other subjects, it has never reached a halfpenny. The amount that can be raised in the borough is unlimited. The amount that can be raised in the county is practically unlimited too, provided that you have the approval of the Local Government Board. Therefore, it does not seem to me that the dangers apprehended from this Amendment are as great as are supposed, and I for one do not take part in the gloomy prophecies made as to how this will operate on secondary education.

THE EARL OF LEVEN AND MELVILLE: Might I ask the noble Duke whether the effect of this Amendment will be to prevent a boy who cannot read or write being taught reading, writing, and arithmetic in the evening continuation school?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: No.

LORD COLERIDGE: I should like to ask whether there is not this difference. Hitherto it has been compulsory on the part of the County Council to provide elementary education, and, therefore, if it is necessary to have evening schools for the purpose of elementary education, it is compulsory on the body to provide those evening schools. Now, if you make these evening schools part of secondary education, the optional character which has often been pointed out in these debates—the optional character which rests, by Section 2, on the local education authority to provide secondary education—remains. The noble Duke said it was their duty. All their duty is to consider and take such steps as may seem to them desirable, which is very far short of compulsory powers extending to evening schools.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): The simple answer to my noble friend's question is this, that it never was compulsory to provide evening schools. I can only confirm what the right rev. Prelate said just now. The whole argument of the Opposition has turned on the supposed limitation of the county rate for higher education. There is no such limitation—only that before going beyond 2d. in the £ the local authority must obtain the consent of the Local Government Board.

On Question, "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 14; Not-Contents, 58.

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Coleridge, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
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NOT-CONTENTS.

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Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
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Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
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Amendments proposed—

"In page 15, lines 5 and 6, to leave out 'or in evening schools which are elementary schools'; in lines 7 and 8 to leave out 'of not more than fifteen years of age.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 8, to leave out from 'school' to 'provided,' in line 10, and insert, 'who at the close of the school year will not be more than sixteen years of age.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD asked whether this Amendment really extended the age from fifteen to sixteen years.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: A boy can remain till such time as that, at the close of the school year, he is not more than sixteen years.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments made.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, this Clause 23 has been made, in the course of the discussion in the other House, the repository of all sorts of miscellaneous provisions, and it will conduce very much to the clearness of the Bill to arrange that the Clause shall be cut up into three separate Clauses. That, I understand, can be done in reprinting the Bill, and it does not require any formal Amendment now.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 19, line 34, after 'education' insert 'including any powers, duties, property, or rights conferred, vested, or arising under any local Act or trust deed'; in page 21, lines 15 and 16, leave out 'and pay at such times and in such manner as they think fit'; in line 17, after 'year,' insert 'and may pay any Parliamentary grant which has accrued before the appointed day at such times and in such manner as they think fit'; in line 18, leave out 'earned by,' and insert, 'payable to'; in line 26, after 'purposes,' insert 'provided that the Board of Education may, if they think fit, pay any share of the aid grant under the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, allotted to an association of voluntary schools to the governing body of that association, if such governing body satisfy the Board of Education that proper arrangements have been made for the application of any sum so paid.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Amendments agreed to.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH, in moving to insert in page 22, line 26, after the word "officers" the words "or teachers" said: The only argument of a practical nature that I can use for the insertion of these words is that if this grievance is one which the House of Commons would think fit to remedy, the insertion of this Amendment would give them the opportunity of doing so. The grievance is one which is very much felt. It has excited a good deal of attention and feeling of unjust treatment among the teachers in voluntary and elementary schools, and I have no doubt it was due to the late hour at which the matter came on the other night that I, and, I think, other Members of the House, hardly understood the explanation given by the noble Duke. As I understand it, the argument was that the teachers in board schools are transferred from one authority to another, whereas the teachers in elementary voluntary schools remain under the same authority as they have been under before. I do not think your Lordships will consider that that is any answer to the case put forward. This is a grievance that is very much felt amongst this class of teachers, and it would be a great benefit if the conditions under which this provision has been forced upon them could be better explained than it was at a late hour the other night.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: I think this is a subject the importance of which is exaggerated strangely out of doors, judging from the fact that half the elementary teachers in voluntary schools seem to be at this moment under the idea that they are going to suffer some special grievance from the provisions contained in this Schedule. The subject seems to be a little complicated, and I may state what I understand to be the explanation of it; then the noble Duke can say whether I am right or wrong. As I understand the position, it is this. The Local Government Acts which are referred to were passed with this object, that where a local authority changed its character and a new authority took the place of one which existed before, some arrangement must be made for compensating those officers who *ipso facto* by that change ceased to exist or passed out of office in some way or another. That would apply in a case where a School Board has its function as a School Board brought to an end; then any person like a School Board clerk, or some officer of that kind, who might not be taken on by the other Board would, under these Acts, receive compensation. The word "officers" is, under a School Board, taken to include teachers as well, but as a matter of fact there will be no difference between board school teachers and voluntary school teachers as to the results which will follow from the present change. The board school teacher, although he is under a new authority, will go on exactly the same as he did before as a teacher, with a different paymaster, but with the same duties. On the other hand the voluntary school teacher will go on just as he did before, because the managers of the voluntary schools will still continue practically in office, though with a slight change in their manner of appointment. Therefore there is no real difference drawn between board school teachers and voluntary school teachers, and the only difference is that School Board clerks, and people of that kind, who are officers under the Board, may fail to be compensated if their services are not required by the new authority. If that explanation is right, I am sure it will be satisfactory to a great many of those who at present imagine that they are under some grievance.

*EARL SPENCER: The right rev. Prelate has explained what would happen on the transfer of a board school to the new local authority, and that the voluntary schools would be left as they are. But I would point out that there may be many voluntary schools where the owner transfers them to the new authority; then they would not remain under the same management. What would happen then? I understood the noble Duke the other night that under voluntary school arrangements these teachers had got a pension, and that that would continue. I do not know that that would be so in the case I now put. Suppose the noble Duke himself, or any noble Lord, transfers a school belonging to him to the local authority, then the teachers would not be under the same authority.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: If I may interpose again, with the indulgence of the House, is not the noble Lord referring to something which exists at present? This Bill cannot make any difference. What the noble Lord has instanced might occur today. The school might be transferred from the voluntary managers to the School Board, and the grievance hereafter will be no greater than it is today.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I will only say that I believe the right rev. Prelate has stated the case accurately. This Bill does not give any additional facilities for transfer.

*EARL SPENCER: There will be a great many more transfers, I should think.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: There may be, but not owing to anything that can be found in this Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Under the present law prosecutions for school attendance purposes can be authorised by two members of the School Board. Under the Bill two members of the education committee are substituted for two members of the School Board. It has been suggested that it might very often be difficult to get two members of the education committee. The school attendance work will in nearly every case be done by a sub-committee of the education committee, and it is proposed that two members of the sub-committee should be able to authorise prosecutions.

Amendment moved—

"In page 23, line 16, after 'committee' to insert 'or of any sub-committee appointed by that committee for school attendance purposes.'"—(*The Lord President.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next, and to have precedence of the other notices and Orders of the Day, and to be printed as amended. (No. 201.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): My Lords, in asking your Lordships to accord a second reading to this Bill, I need not remind any of your Lordships that a very important and long measure was passed relating to the Local Government of Ireland in 1898. That Act, subjected to the test of experience, has shown that it would be desirable in some particulars to make certain changes and Amendments. This Bill, to which I now ask your Lordships to give a second reading, does not deal, of course, with any large questions of policy, but it deals with some details of more or less importance. They are not a very large number. Your Lordships will find that those details are set out very fully in the various Clauses. Amendments are made in the provisions in reference to audit and surcharge items, giving further powers to the auditors, and giving also powers for increased contributions to county infirmaries to pay deputies for doctors under certain circumstances when they are on leave; and for stereotyping certain payments out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account, a matter which is of considerable importance: and it also confers authority upon councils to meet half yearly instead of meeting quarterly in certain cases and under certain conditions, which seem to me to be carefully and satisfactorily framed. There is amongst other powers a power given to the County Councils to subscribe to meetings of associations of various County Councils which consider various matters of importance. Under these circumstances I ask your Lordships to accord the Bill a second reading, and I am sure your Lordships will not think it unreasonable that it should be put down for the Committee stage on Monday next.

Bill read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

OSBORNE ESTATE BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

MAIL SHIPS BILL.

House in Committee: (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. to be considered on Monday next in order to their being suspended for the remainder of the Session.

House adjourned at a quarter before Three o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 15*th December*, 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).

Second Annual General Report of the Department, 1901-1902.

INDIA (FAMINE).

Speech by the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, on the work of the Conciliation Boards in the Central Provinces.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Report of inquiry, held in November, 1902, into the facts and circumstances connected with, or relating to, the treatment while in Limerick Prison, and the nature and cause of the illness, of Mr. Timothy Flanagan; with appendices; presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY (EXTENSION FROM BANAVIE TO MALLAIG).

Report by the Board of Trade as to the condition and working of the Banavie to Mallaig Railway, the rates and charges for traffic, and the receipts and expenditure of any company in working the railway for the year ended 1st March, 1902: Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. considered [according to Order], and suspended for the remainder of the Session.

VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION.

*Earl SPENCER: My Lords, I have given private notice to the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of a Question on the subject of the situation in Venezuela. I think that Parliament has some reason to complain of the very small amount of information which has been vouchsafed on this question up to the present. We compare very unfavourably with Germany in this matter, for I understand that a great many Papers have been laid before the German Parliament with full information as to the causes of the present action. There is another point which I am doubtful whether I ought to mention; but I doubt whether the noble Marquess was right to be playfully sarcastic and jocular in a recent speech with reference to this small country—Venezuela. We are about to enter into negotiations with Venezuela, or into acts of war, and a public dinner at such a moment is not the right occasion to choose for jocular remarks on the subject. When the noble Marquess speaks in public, he speaks, not in his private capacity, but as Foreign Minister. I wish to know whether the noble Marquess has any information to give with regard to the causes which led to the issue of the ultimatum to Venezuela; whether any answer has been received from the Venezuelan Government; and whether the Government has any information as to the release of the prisoners made by the Venezuelan Government, and as to the sinking of ships taken by the fleets of England and Germany. Since I gave notice of this Question, various other incidents have been reported in the public Press, such as the bombardment of a certain port. Perhaps the noble Marquess can give some information on those points at the same time.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of Lansdowne): My Lords, I am sorry that so good and experienced a critic as the noble Earl should think it necessary to take exception to the tone of the very few observations which I made the other evening at a public dinner on the subject of Venezuela. The noble Earl characterised my remarks as unduly jocular.

*Earl SPENCER: And sarcastic.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: The only observation which I can recall, which at all merits that description, was an observation in which I permitted myself to say that I thought the Venezuelan Government had indulged in a superfluous number of revolutions in recent years. I might perhaps have said that in more tragical accents. Perhaps if I had been addressing your Lordships I

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

should have done so. But on such an occasion, I confess, it did not seem to be improper to deal in a lighter vein with what I admit is a very serious subject. The noble Earl complains of us for not having at an earlier stage supplied information and Papers on this question. Anticipating the interest which your Lordships were likely to take in it, we prepared a collection of the more important Papers, and I laid them on the Table on Friday last, and they are now before your Lordships.

*EARL SPENCER: We have not got them.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Here they are.

*EARL SPENCER: We want them circulated.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: They will be delivered to day. I do not think I can do better than refer the noble Earl to those Papers for the answer to the first Question which he has addressed to me. He will find that the first of these Papers is a Memorandum in which a number of cases are recapitulated in which we have the gravest reasons for complaining of the manner in which British subjects and their property have been dealt with by the Venezuelan Government. As to the ultimatum, the noble Earl will find in the series of Papers no less than three solemn warnings addressed by His Majesty's Government to the Government of Venezuela, the last of them being the ultimatum which was presented in the early days of the present month. There were two earlier communications of a similar kind —one in the month of June and another in the month of November. Since these Papers were published we have received a telegram from our Minister in Venezuela containing a summary of a document which had been handed to him, and which purports to be a reply to the ultimatum of December 2. Mr. Haggard, in summarising this Paper, informs us that it makes no allusion to the definitive character of the ultimatum. It contains complaints that His Majesty's Government have offered no reparation for the injury inflicted by the "Ban Righ" upon the Venezuelan Government, and the conduct of the authorities at Trinidad; and it concludes by stating that, the Venezuelan Treasury being exhausted, it is impossible for the Government to meet its debts for the moment, but that as soon as peace is concluded it will not be necessary to remind the Venezuelan Government of its obligations. That purports to be the reply to the ultimatum; and since that we have received through the United States Government a proposal from the Venezuelan Government to refer a part of the complaints which we have made against them to arbitration. The proposal is that the present difficulty in respect of the manner of settling claims for injuries to British and German subjects during the insurrection should be submitted to arbitration. That proposal has just been received, and is under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

The noble Earl asks me for information as to the release of the British subjects who were arrested by the Venezuelan Government. We have already given such information as was in our possession, We received two telegrams from our Ambassador at Washington, one of them informing us that the United States Government had heard from the United States Minister at Caracas, in a message dated December 10, that all British and German subjects in Venezuela had been arrested. The United States Minister goes on to say,

> "This afternoon I shall see the President and urge him to release them all to-day."

Then follows a telegram dated December 11, communicated by the Secretary of State. in which the United States Minister says—

> "The President informs me that he has released all British and Germans who were arrested."

I think your Lordships will agree that we are much indebted for the good offices of the United States Minister in Caracas in these difficult circumstances.

As to the sinking of the Venezuelan gunboats, the facts, as reported to us, are as follows: The Venezuelan gunboats were seized partly by the British and partly by the German ships of war. We are told that of the gunboats seized by the German ships of war it was found necessary to sink two. We have not received any official explanation of the circumstances, and it is obviously impossible for me to undertake, without such information, to explain under what stress of necessity these acts had to be resorted to. With regard to a statement in the Press that certain buildings have been bombarded by British ships, we have seen the statement, but we have received no official confirmation of it. For the rest, I cannot do better than refer the noble Earl to the Papers which are now on the Table of your Lordship's House.

*EARL SPENCER: With regard to the two gunboats said to have been sunk, I see some account of his Majesty's ship "Retribution" conducting two of these Venezuelan vessels away. Does the sinking refer to these ships, or to the vessels seized by the Germans?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The remark refers entirely to the vessels seized by the German ships of war.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

(THIRD READING.)

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*The Lord President.*)

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I rise to make a last and strenuous protest against the principle of this measure. I do not propose to go over the ground covered in the long and, I think, able debates on the Second Reading and in Committee. I only wish to show why I still feel opposition to the Bill. I wish to acknowledge the patience, ability and candour with which the noble Duke has conducted the Bill in this House. But I think it was my noble friend Lord Rosebery who spoke of the "adamantine front" presented by the noble Duke, and I feel that nothing has pierced that front. Not a single Amendment has been granted to those who agree with me. The Bishop of Hereford, who I think everybody will admit is a great educationist, and has shown great breadth of view, liberality, and, I will venture to say, courage in the course he has taken in this House, has also proposed some excellent and reasonable Amendments, but has been unable to break through that adamantine rock. There are various points on which I think this Bill will have a prejudicial effect. There is the dissolution of the School Boards, and, with it, the destruction of the special election of skilled educationists. There is the very delusive character, as I think it, of the education authority in the towns and the counties, by which a very important principle, to my mind, has been put in jeopardy and, in fact, sacrificed—namely, the popular representation of the people on the education bodies. I contend that the whole tendency of the Bill will be to throw the management of education from the representatives directly elected by the people to committees greatly made up of co-opted members.

I wish also to refer to what I said in my speech on the Second Reading in regard to a subject which I still think contains the crux of the whole matter, and on which rests the chief opposition to the Bill in many quarters. I allude to the constitution of the boards of managers of voluntary schools. With regard to this point my noble friend Lord Rosebery criticised some remarks which the noble Duke made at the end of the debate on the Second Reading, and he and the noble Duke had a very spirited, able, and acute discussion upon it. The noble Duke referred to what he considered the rights of the State in this matter, and, with his candour, admitted that the Government thought it necessary to secure by the way they dealt with the managers in these voluntary schools religious instruction in them. I venture to differ from the noble Duke in what he said. The noble Duke pointed out that two-thirds of the cost of these voluntary schools would fall on the Exchequer, and about one-third upon the rates, and he therefore claimed that the State should have a predominant position on the boards of management. Well, my Lords, I agree with the noble Duke in saying that the State should have, probably, a majority in the management of these schools, but I entirely differ from him in regard to the way in which he obtains that majority, and also from the reasons for it. What Lord Rosebery said was that the taxpayers should be represented. The noble Duke said:—"How could the Exchequer be represented except by means of inspectors?" That is an argument which I do not agree with. Inspectors are appointed not only for education, but for many other things. There are inspectors of manufactories, of mines, and of other institutions. They are appointed, not because the State contributes towards those manufactories, but to protect women and children, and the other workers. I agree that the State should also have inspectors in regard to education, because it is necessary to see that proper education is given and that something like the same standard of education is maintained in different parts of the country. But I do not for one moment agree that this is the only way in which the State could be represented. I agree with Lord Rosebery that the taxpayer should be represented. The noble Duke said that could not be. Who are the people to whom we wish to give representation upon these education authorities? We wanted to give the electors the power of choosing the majority, if not the whole, of those who are to constitute these education authorities. And who represent the electors? The ratepayers. And who are the ratepayers? They are not only those who pay rates, but they are also taxpayers, and represent both interests in this matter. Then the noble Duke said the State—and in speaking of the State here he referred to the existing Government with its enormous majority—had a right to see that certain principles were maintained, and the only way of doing that was to secure a majority of the whole of the managers on these boards. I differ from that entirely. I maintain that these schools, in future, will become State schools. I am not going into the question of what remains. I believe there is remaining a little residue of power to teach denominational religion in the schools. I maintain that the State should be independent of the voluntary teaching in religion, and it is not part of the duty of the State to pay for religious teaching in the schools. Then there is the question of the disqualification of the head teacher, which has led to great dissatisfaction in the country. You give protection to the assistant teacher and the pupil teacher with regard to their religion, but you omit the head teacher altogether.

We hear a great deal as to the question of settlement. My complaint is that the Government have lost an opportunity of having a national settlement of the question. The settlement which they propose will only be a temporary one, so far as I know. I think the noble Viscount opposite said the other night that when another election came it would not be likely that the whole of this settlement would stand. I think there will be considerable objection to what has been proposed, and that the country will be disturbed by bickerings. I wish the Government had by a broad, wide, and comprehensive measure, settled this question for a long time to come. Nothing appears more clear than this, that the Government have proposed this Bill as a compromise, as a sort of concordat, between themselves and the Church. Having a number of voluntary schools under me, no doubt I shall benefit by the Bill; but I deeply regret that additional money has been asked for inconsistent with the dignity of the Church. There is one other great defect, and that is the deception with regard to the creation of one authority. The Bill in this respect has given satisfaction neither to the partisans of denominational education nor to the other side. It fails to establish a national system of education, which is so important, and the Government have thus lost a golden opportunity of meeting the difficulty. I deeply regret that the Bill should become law. I protest against it. I fear that it will warp the education of the country and the momentous efforts which have been made to improve it, and I also fear that it will greatly increase religious animosity. I can only say that I hope I may be wrong, but as far as my humble endeavours will go, regarding the Bill as wrong in principle, and prepared as I am, if I have the opportunity, to reverse in Parliament some of its obnoxious principles, I for one shall try to work it, as long as the law of the land is not altered, so as to bring it into a state of useful utility for the purpose of spreading education in the country.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE: My Lords, the position which those who sit on this Bench occupy is so unique and so different from that of the rest of your Lordships in reference to this Bill, that I trust the House will allow me to make a few observations in respect to what has fallen from the noble Earl. It seems to me there are two features of this Bill which are not necessarily controversial, and which both mark a very distinct educational advance. The first is that you have for the first time one authority set up in certain areas with power to co-ordinate primary and secondary education. Now, in reference to this authority it does seem to me that for the first time we have come to something like *terra firma*, because I cannot imagine, whatever changes may afterwards be made in reference to this Bill, or in reference to education, that the County Councils and the County Borough Councils will ever really lose the power which is given to them by this Bill. It seems to me you have a distinct principle that those who are elected for the purpose of dealing with the rates shall make the rates for education as well as for other purposes. Here you have a distinct principle laid down, and the only regret that I feel personally is that a concession has been made to small boroughs with populations exceeding 10,000 and to urban districts which have a population exceeding 20,000, a concession which seems to me in some respects to mar the efficiency of the Bill. But, with this exception, the principle seems to me to be a sound one. The areas are, on the whole, sufficiently large, and I have not a shadow of a doubt that this marks a very distinct educational advance.

The second principle of the Bill, which in my opinion also marks an advance, is the fact that you have now for the first time an authority which deals with all the public elementary schools in the area, and deals with them as a whole. Hitherto we have had schools under voluntary managers and schools under School Boards, and the only sort of unity that has been given to them has been given by a control from Whitehall; but in future there will be an authority in each area capable of dealing with these schools as a whole, and capable, I venture to think, of adapting them to the wants of the various localities. It is only when we come to the third principle of the Bill that we come really to what is keenly controversial ground. The third principle, as I take it, of this Bill is that it is one for bringing the voluntary schools into a national system without disturbing their basis and with adequate guarantees. Now, I know perfectly well that I am speaking of two points which are eminently and keenly controversial, but it does seem to me, in thinking this matter out, absolutely essential to separate them. Are you agreed on the first point—that is, without disturbing their basis? Because, if you consider this point the question is—How are you going to treat the voluntary schools? Are you going to rob them, are you going to ignore them, or are you going to come to terms with them? The noble Earl Lord Beauchamp said the other night that considerable grants had been made by Parliament for the building of these schools, and he said so with perfect truth. But none of these grants, which amount to £1,800,000, were made subsequent to the year 1870. The value of these buildings is something like £25,000,000, and I ask your Lordships if you do not think, even if every single voluntary school were closed tomorrow, the State would have had a good bargain in securing, in return for those grants, the use of these schools for all these years for secular and religious education.

If you are not prepared to steal or ignore the voluntary schools, in which case the House of Commons would have to go to the country for an enormous sum, you must be prepared to come to terms with them, and, after all, there must be two parties to the bargain. It is impossible, therefore, for Parliament to propose conditions which the other party to the bargain would absolutely refuse to accept. We then come to the question of what really the voluntary schools are prepared to accept. There are two ways in which it was possible to preserve the denominational schools as denominational schools, and either of these courses might have been adopted by His Majesty's Government. It was quite open to the Government to say:

We will give you statutory protection for your school; we will give you the protection, for instance, of having a headmaster or headmistress satisfactory to the denomination of the school; we will give you protection for the denominational teaching which shall be given within the school; we will give you ample protection so that your school shall not be handed over, by a mere snap majority, to the local authority, and, having done this, we will impose larger popular control. It was quite open to His Majesty's Government to have made some sort of proposal of this kind, and I should have preferred some such proposal myself. I am not in the least afraid of popular management, and if there had been something of the nature of statutory protection, I for one would have been quite willing to have assented to an arrangement by which half the managers should have been popularly elected. But it was no use making such a proposal when I knew perfectly well that I was in a minority in my own body in reference to this matter, and voluntary schools generally would not have accepted it. Therefore, in the circumstances, I naturally had to fall in with what seemed to be the second best proposal—namely, the one made by His Majesty's Government, by which there is a preponderance of foundation managers, but a sufficient number of other managers to give a guarantee that the public money will be properly spent.

If you are determined to have denominational teaching you must do one of these two things, and if you cannot do the first you must do the second, and in that case it seems to me hardly fair to criticise the Government for not giving additional popularly-elected managers. When I know the great control that has been exercised hitherto by Whitehall, and when I look at the further control that will now be exercised by the local education authority, I cannot conceive what more is needed in order to insure the right dispensing of public money, whether from the rates or from the taxes. The strain upon the voluntary schools has been and is so serious that I and others on this Bench have had the greatest anxiety lest our schools should have to be given up. We have given our vote on the wear-and-tear Amendment as a protest against what appears to us to be not a quite equitable feature of the Bill. The noble Earl has almost charged this Bench with a breach of faith in reference to the wear-and-tear Amendment, but the noble Duke in charge of the Bill will, I am sure, acquit the representatives of the Church of any such charge, for he himself said he was perfectly well aware that the resolution of the two Convocations referred to structural repairs. What the Convocations implicitly agreed to was that the structural repairs should fall entirely on the managers, but they presumed that maintenance and wear-and-tear repairs would fall upon the local education authorities. With reference to fees and endowments given for the general use of the school, I think the equitable arrangement is that they should be divided between the managers, who have the up-keep of the school, and the local authority which has to pay the teaching staff.

The Lord Bishop of Newcastle.

As to what is known as the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment, with regard to which we have felt much anxiety, we are grateful to His Majesty's Government for the clear way in which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has guarded the right of appeal in the case of schools which have trust-deeds. We only regret that they have not seen their way to extend this appeal to other schools which are absolutely denominational, and where, by some accident, or owing to ignorance of what was coming, no such appeal is actually stated in terms. With reference to what the noble Duke said about the bishops not having controlled certain practices of the clergy, I would point out that in certain parishes there are no trustees of the schools, and in many of the trust deeds no appeal to the Bishop is given. We further desired, if possible, that this appeal should be extended so as to apply not only *de doctrinâ* but *de personâ*. At the same time, I wish to say that I am not in the least afraid of the Clause as it stands. I believe it will not work badly, and I am prepared to accept the decision of Parliament in the matter. If I were to resume the duties of a parish clergyman, I would rather give religious instruction with the good will of the managers, one or two of them possibly Nonconformists, than give it under a trust deed which no layman had seen. Provided the clergy will throw themselves on the confidence of the people with whom they are working, they will find that the Clause will not work badly after all.

I am much mistaken if the ultimate judgment of the people in England in this educational controversy will not depend less upon the soundness or unsoundness of the rival theories than upon the moral tone of those who are parties to the controversy in the treatment of the children. If the managers of Voluntary Schools are going to take umbrage at the conditions which have been imposed on them and to close their schools to the public; or if the County Councils are going to give a sullen acquiescence to the limitations imposed upon them in the Bill; or if the Nonconformists, in their very natural disappointment at their failure to secure an undenominational system of education, are going to attempt to wreck this Bill when it becomes law, then I believe that the ultimate judgment of this country will condemn a recklessness that mistakes prejudice for argument and self-will for law. If, on the other hand, the managers of voluntary schools are determined, despite untoward conditions which they little expected, to throw themselves upon the confidence of their people and do their very utmost to make the Bill work well; if the County Councils are determined to appoint their best men on these committees, recognising that there is nothing more important entrusted to them than this measure of education; if these men are willing to give their time, their skill, and their experience in the service of the State, and if our Nonconformist friends are determined, despite their disappointment, to endeavour to work the Bill loyally and so to win the approbation of the country for, perhaps, a further measure of popular management and control, then I am persuaded that, whatever the future of education in this country, this Bill will mark a very important epoch in educational progress in England. It is because I have these better hopes and because I believe that all parties will, despite the divisions of the past, endeavour, when this Bill becomes law, to give it a fair trial, that I, for one, before the measure leaves your Lordships' House, desire to wish it God-speed.

*THE EARL OF MOUNT EDGCUMBE: I cannot help regretting that the right rev. Prelate did not express his views as to the importance of giving a right of appeal to denominational schools in whose trust deed no such appeal is actually provided, when I moved my Amendment on the subject which was received with such discouraging silence.

*LORD STANMORE: My Lords, I do not rise to repeat what has been already said, and better said, by others on previous stages of the Bill, but I do wish before it leaves us to point out one or two practical matters with regard to its probable working which I think have not received as much attention as might, perhaps, have been expected. I shall not go into the general subject of the Bill itself, beyond saying this, that I think the debates which have taken place upon it have not disgraced the traditions of the House. They have shown on both sides the utmost fairness of thought and of speech, and they have not degenerated into anything unworthy of the speeches and discussions in this House in the past. Distance of place produces somewhat the same effect as distance of time, and I think that those who, like myself, have, ununfortunately, lived long out of England, when they come back and find themselves unable to belong to any Party at all, sometimes see things a little more than most men as those a hundred years hence will see them; and I believe that the historian of the future, describing this debate and the discussions on this Bill, would come to this conclusion, that, on the one hand, His Majesty's Government have made an honest and fair attempt to settle this great and difficult question—whether they be right or wrong is another matter — and that, on the other hand, those noble Lords who have conducted the opposition to the Bill, though I do not think they have proved their case against it, have proved that it is a measure that will not finally settle this great question. It is, I believe, a measure of suspense, one which may make the way for a more complete settlement, but not one which we can expect to be permanent or enduring.

But my object in rising was to call attention to some practical points in the Bill, and especially to that Clause which has been most debated and most discussed. The right rev. Bench appeared to be well satisfied with the Amendment passed in this House on the motion of the Lord Chancellor. I confess I regret that that Clause was introduced at all. I regret it, not on denominational grounds, but on grounds of a very much wider and larger scope. I regret it because I venture to think that it is always a mistake, and generally a misfortune, when measures of a far-reaching character intended to be permanent and affecting large numbers of men, are brought in for a temporary purpose, and with the intention of affecting comparatively few. Measures of that kind seldom succeed. Fifty years ago, an arrogant and tactless act on the part of the Pope led to a fury throughout the country, and caused the enactment of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act. Passed by enormous majorities both in this and the other House, that Act was repealed twenty years later without a single voice being raised in its favour. So, at a later period, the Public Worship Regulation Bill was brought in with the avowed intention of crushing a particular party in the Church. That Act has not been repealed. It exists still on the Statute-book, but it exists as a melancholy monument of impotent and futile legislation. I fear that this Clause in its inception had an object very similar, for we have been told by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack with—shall I say, robust frankness—that the Clause was intended entirely to check the excesses of certain self-willed and self-conceited individuals. The right rev. Bench seem to be extremely pleased with the appeal which has been granted to them. I doubt whether it will prove of the value they expect, and I doubt it for several reasons. In the first place, I think the House is hardly aware how very limited that appeal is. We all know that it does not apply to cases of schools which have no trust deeds, but, what is not so well known is that it will not apply to a large number of those schools which have trust deeds. I know, that in the Diocese with which I am best acquainted—the Diocese of Oxford—out of the number of schools having trust deeds only a very small proportion of them give an appeal to the Bishop. I find that the trust deed generally gives the religious superintendence to the clergymen of the parish, but does not mention the direct appeal to the Bishop. Therefore, I think the appeal will only apply to a comparatively limited number of cases.

But to go beyond that, I say that the appeal, though useful as a means of punishment, ceases to be of the smallest value as a means of protection. If the managers make complaint of the teaching in the school, and an appeal is made to the Bishop, and the Bishop agrees that the teaching is objectionable, then, I admit, your appeal carries weight, and the clergyman is excluded without remedy But suppose it is the other way. Suppose the appeal is made by the clergyman, and the Bishop thinks the appeal was rightly made, and that the clergyman was in the right, he has no means of enforcing that decision, and I think we all know what, in a country parish, will be the action of the four fat farmers on the board of management who are now to take the control of religious education. They will say, "Oh ! the Bishop thinks the parson's teaching is right. Well, we don't." And the Bishop has no power to make them readmit the parson to the school. As a punitive weapon against the clergy the Bill may be valuable, but as a preventative of abuse on the part of managers it is not. Again, there is a great evil likely to result from that appeal. The appeal is a final appeal, and the Bishop is empowered by it to state what is, and what is not, the doctrine of the Church of England. Now that seems to me very much to foment a dangerous tendency of setting up, as it were, an aggregation of dioceses instead of one Church of England. I say that there is already a tendency in that direction, because I think that the Government of the country, whether the present Government or any other Government, have always a great temptation to appoint to a diocese as its Bishop someone who is in harmony with the teaching and with the ideas of the Bishop who preceded him. It is a very natural and right feeling, but, at the same time, it does tend to foster a separate school of thought in each diocese and to keep them permanently different. That, it seems to me, will be rather accentuated by these appeals on the question of doctrine. We shall not hear a uniform voice, and that which is approved at Lincoln may be condemned at Liverpool; what is orthodox at Rochester may be heterodox at Carlisle. On the legal point, I do not know what force those decisions may have, but if the decision given is supposed to be final as to what the doctrine of the Church of England is, I think the lawyers will be busy, for the right rev. Prelates will certainly not all agree. These seem to me to be practical difficulties in the way of working the Clause.

There will be one other practical result of the Clause. We have heard a good deal of Nonconformists' grievances. We are told that the grievaces of the Nonconformists are those to which we should specially attend. Well, then, I would say that there is one class of Nonconformists whom this Clause most prejudicially affects—I mean His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects. Up to this time Roman Catholic schools have received large grants from the State for the education given in their schools. If the Clause is carried out in its entirety, if the religious teaching in Roman Catholic schools is committed to a body of whom the majority are laymen, and two of whom need not be Roman Catholics at all, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for those schools to accept any grant whatever, and they will have established a very real grievance on their part. I will end by re-echoing the hope expressed by the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition, that when the Bill has become law all parties will consent to work so as to make it succeed.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: My Lords, as one who did not trouble your Lordships with any remarks on the Second Reading, perhaps I may be allowed a few moments now for a perfectly definite purpose. I think that on all sides it must be admitted that this debate has been conducted with great courtesy and consideration for opponents, and certainly we on this Bench have nothing to complain of in that respect. But the same thing cannot, I think, be said of the controversy outside. One charge aimed at the Episcopal Bench and those whom we represent has been urged in an especially offensive manner; the Bill has been described as stained with avarice and the expression "shameless greed" has been used. That charge, although it has never come up in this House, has, I think, certainly tinctured some of the remarks that have fallen from noble Lords. That such things should be attributed to the leaders of a religious body and that they should not even seem to care to reply would not be altogether good for the religious life of the country. Nobody, I suppose, would impute to the Bishops or the clergy a personal avarice in this matter, though I have seen a paper which apparently suggests that in some way the incomes of the clergy would be relieved or benefited by the passing of the Bill. Were it said that we were avaricious for our institution, it would not, of course, be enough to reply that we were conscientious in the policy which we have urged, as that might be said of many fanatical and misguided persons in different periods of history. But what we do say, plainly and publicly, is that we conscientiously believe that what we have asked and pressed for is consistent with those broad principles of liberty and justice as to which we stand on the same plane with our fellow-citizens.

Our position is that, in a State where religious opinion is greatly divided, it is best and fairest for the State frankly to acknowledge that division, and to provide within the area of its educational system for the various forms of conviction held. Why is there any difficulty about this? I find that we are met by certain opinions which are represented as political axioms. We are told, first, that no denominational institution or agency is entitled to any assistance from the State. That is a highly disputable proposition. The Church takes her stand on common denominational grounds, not on the ground of her establishment. Then we are told that undenominationalism is, or ought to be, satisfactory to everybody. It has always been very strange to me to suppose for a moment that by slicing across and selecting certain portions of men's deepest and most sacred convictions a residue can be obtained which is to be satisfactory to everybody. The noble Lord, the Chairman of the London School Board, in a speech which, if I may venture to offer an impertinent comment, was, I think, the weightiest made against the Bill, drew for us a picture in very concrete language of what undenominationalism was. He showed us how he and his colleagues desired to work it, and he brought us some interesting illustrations. I think the noble Lord would admit that it would not be necessary to go far into the utterances of those with whom the noble Lord is associated to find other definitions of undenominationalism. I find a description of it in which the Bible is to be used merely for literary and ethical purposes, and that use is defended in an apologetic kind of way. I recently read a very interesting report upon the educational system of another country whose history seems to me to be extremely impressive and edifying in this respect—I mean Holland. There was a system there which called itself Christian and also neutral, and where the neutrality was more self-evident than the Christianity which the noble Lord told us was included in the undenominationalism which he defends. As a matter of fact, undenominationalism does not satisfy us nor does it satisfy Roman Catholics and other religious bodies. If I say that I am quite aware that I tread on doubtful and debateable ground, it satisfies Nonconformists.

One noble Lord opposite reminded the House that Nonconformists have, many of them, as strong denominational convictions as we have. I certainly should not attempt to combat that. But need we go into generalities on the matter? May I not confine myself to this statement, which I do not think admits of contradiction, namely, that after the Act of 1870, which established the undenominational system, the Nonconformists were at least so far satisfied with that system that, as a matter of fact, they gave up their schools; whereas the Church was so plainly dissatisfied with it, that she made considerable and self-sacrificing efforts to keep her schools going against the pressure of a competition which became every year more and more acute. I am quite aware—I should never attempt to dispute it—that secondary motives have assisted that effort on the part of the Church, and that some of what has been done has been due to an endeavour to keep out the rate in country parishes; but that, at any rate, does not apply to the efforts made in the towns where the rate has been all the while in full swing. The great efforts which the clergy in slum parishes have made to keep their schools going are a testimony to the importance which they set on denominational education. It does seem to me to be unfair that it should be laid against a body of men who hold the opinions we do that we are grasping, avaricious, greedy, shameless and the rest. In regard to more than one particular proposal, it has been said that the Church, or the Bishops, were not content with the very considerable advantages they were getting under this Bill, but were straining for more. All I have to say is that if a thing is to be done, it had better be done really and effectively. The Bill attempts to keep the voluntary schools in existence. If it does not succeed in that effort it will not be to the credit of the statesmanship of His Majesty's Government, and it will be to their disappointment. As a matter of fact, what was proposed in the Bill was not what we as representing the Church had said to be necessary for the purpose. I want to make it perfectly clear that what we on our part thought to be necessary for the help of the schools was not what the Government proposed. These are the terms of the Resolution passed by the two Convocations last year—

> "That all schools be financed as far as the cost of maintenance, exclusive of repairs of the structure of voluntary schools, is concerned, out of public funds, whether Imperial or local."

His Majesty's Government found, as they thought, that they could not give so great a relief as that. The relief which they proposed to give to the voluntary schools was not so great as had been asked for, and it is not surprising, therefore, that Churchmen should be glad to see the *lacuna* filled up in part in any reasonable way. This was the motive which induced my right rev. brother the Bishop of Manchester to move his Amendment, and if it is acknowledged that the general position is honourable, and that the policy is one which ought to be carried through successfully, I do not see why the epithets I have quoted should be used. The noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition has told the House that he hopes the Bill will be a great relief to him as an owner of schools in point of money.

*EARL SPENCER: I did not say I hoped it would.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: At any rate, I would not advise the noble Earl to build too confidently on that relief. I do not know how the County Council of Northamptonshire will behave, but I shall not be at all surprised if the demands of the local education committee for repairs of the buildings will make him find that his net advantage will not be so great as he either hopes or fears. It is for this reason that I desire to accept the Bill as a very important vindication of what I will call the denominational principle in education, that method of justice and freedom in religious matters which an acknowledgment of the denominational principle implies. It is not, of course, the only way in which you can acknowledge and vindicate the denominational principle. You might have another system altogether, and that system has sometimes been described in rather glowing language as a broad, national system, in which you would give to all denominations the right of coming in in their own time and at their own cost, and giving instruction. But as regards any system of that kind the door for the time being has been shut, if not slammed, by noble Lords who sit opposite. An alternative method of recognising denominational rights cannot be adopted until noble Lords opposite, and those whom they represent, are so far converted from the principle of universal and intolerant undenominationalism, as to be ready to open the way to something of the kind.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I have in the first place to express my acknowledgment of the extremely fair manner in which the noble Earl opposite referred to the discussions which have taken place in this House, and also to the assurance which he gave of his desire that the measure when it passes into law will receive a fair trial, and that it may realise the anticipations formed of it. I wish, however, that language as moderate and conciliatory as that employed by the noble Earl had been used by some of his colleagues in debate. I think that we have heard other utterances which pointed, not to any attempt to make the best of a measure which they did not approve, but to an attempt to make the Bill unworkable. The noble Earl complained of the attitude which has been assumed by the Government with reference to the Amendments which have been moved in Committee, and he also complained of what he described as the adamantine front which I had opposed to them. I do not know whether the noble Earl has carefully considered what these Amendments have been. If the noble Earl will scrutinise these Amendments, I think he will find that either they have related to points of comparative detail, to which he cannot attach any very great importance, or to such points as were utterly inconsistent with the principle and main object of the Bill. I have here the list of divisions taken in Committee. Among the divisions are those which receive the support of the noble Lords opposite, and which have been of an important character. Lord Beauchamp proposed to make the provision of secondary education compulsory. The noble Earl opposite has made it a subject of complaint that we did not accept that Amendment. I do not think that we could have accepted it—I do not think he could even have desired that we should have accepted it—because it imposed on the County Councils the duty of at once framing a scheme for the provision of secondary education throughout their area.

*EARL SPENCER: I voted for the Amendment.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: But I doubt whether, if we had proposed it, the noble Earl would have supported the proposal to impose upon the County Council of Northamptonshire without delay the provision of a complete system of secondary education. Next there was the Conscience Clause for scholars in boarding schools. I conceive that some noble Lords opposite may attach importance to it, but it is a question of detail rather than of principle. The next important Amendment was moved by the Bishop of Hereford, in which he proposed to reverse the proportions of the foundation and popularly appointed managers. That comes under the category to which I referred of Amendments that were absolutely subversive of the principle of the Bill, for the principle of the Bill, as I have endeavoured to impress on your Lordships, is that schools having a definite denominational character should be maintained and retained, and some security should be taken for their retention. The proposal would have been absolutely subversive of any idea of security to such a body. Then the right rev. Prelate proposed to abolish the use of tests in the case of head teachers. It is difficult to see how a school can retain its distinctive religious character if it is within the option of an undenominational majority to appoint a teacher of a different religious belief, or of no religious belief at all. The noble Earl next complained that the Bill destroyed the School Boards and substituted education committees in the management, not only of non-provided, but of existing provided schools. But I must point out to the noble Earl that so little importance did he or his friends attach to this provision of the Bill that they did not even move an Amendment on the subject and, with the exception of the noble Earl's speech in moving the rejection of the Bill, we have heard very little objection taken to the substitution of municipal authorities for specially elected School Boards. The noble Earl referred to the controversy between Lord Rosebery and myself as to inadequate popular representation on the management of the denominational schools. What I said, and what I am prepared to adhere to, is that the fact that the ratepayers of a district contribute one-third of the cost of maintenance of a school does not confer on the ratepayers any right to a dominant share in the management of the school. I still think that mainly the schools being maintained by the taxpayers, it is they, and not the ratepayers, who contribute only an extremely small part of the cost of maintenance, who have a right to the predominant influence in the management of the school.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Let me ask the noble Duke, for the last time—Are not the ratepayers taxpayers?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: They are, but they do not represent the whole of the taxpayers. The larger share of the cost of maintenance of these schools is contributed by the income-taxpayers and the other payers of Imperial taxes, whom the ratepayers have no claim to represent. It is Parliament alone that can represent these taxpayers, and it is the bounden duty of Parliament on their behalf to exercise a predominant influence in the constitution of the body which is to have the management and control of the schools. The Bishop of Newcastle expressed regret that the Government had not been able to concede an appeal to the Bishop in all cases; and, in reference to what I said about the Bishops not having controlled certain practices of the clergy, he pointed out that in certain parishes there were no trustees of the schools, and in many of the trust deeds no appeal to the Bishop was given. But what I pointed out was that in our opinion a Bishop ought to be able to exercise a controlling influence over his clergy altogether distinct from any formal powers of decision which might be conferred upon him within the terms of a trust deed. What we and many have felt has been that a comparatively small minority of the clergy have carried on or tolerated practices in the schools which most of us regret, and which I think members of the episcopate regret, and that the Bishops have been either unwilling or unable to exercise such influence over those members of their Church as would have sufficed to put a stop to these practices. And seeing the very little influence which in some of these cases the Bishops have been able to exercise, I do not think it was unreasonable that we should have some doubt about conferring on the Bishops the power to decide whether a certain clergyman should or should not be the sole person entrusted with the management of religious education. Before this discussion closes I should like to point out the feature which has most struck me in it, and that is the entire absence during the whole of these debates of any alternative plan or suggestion of a plan likely to meet with any amount of support from any considerable body of opinion, or unlikely to lead to resistance and objection equal to that which has been offered to our proposals. When I speak of a plan, I do not, of course, refer to a plan embodied in an Act of Parliament. I refer to the utter absence of any basis for a plan.

*EARL SPENCER: More popular representation.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: To introduce a larger popular representative basis into our plan would entirely subvert it. Noble Lords opposite have never indicated to us on what basis they would themselves propose to deal with this question. The only suggestion of an alternative policy which we have heard, either in this House or the other, has been that embodied in the Amendment moved in this House by Lord Lytton and in the other House by Lord Hugh Cecil. In the other House it received the support of a very small minority, although its principle was favourably received by the Prime Minister. It was opposed by the great majority of the supporters of the Government and also by the leaders of the Opposition. In this House it met with a reception of a different character. It enlisted the support of a very much larger proportion of Conservatives; but here, as in the other House, it was resisted by noble Lords opposite with only one exception. The one recruit which the proposal obtained in this House was Lord Rosebery, who gave to it a qualified support. But it is extremely doubtful how far it would have been possible for the right rev. Prelates and the lay Lords on these Benches to go in support of such a proposal with the noble Earl. Those who voted in favour of the proposal on this side of the House regarded it as an addition to the Bill. But the noble Earl, I conceive, only voted for it as a substitution for our Bill and not as an addition to it. A complete and satisfactory substitute for our proposals had never been suggested by any body of political opinion. The position of the regular Opposition is that they have confined themselves entirely, I will not say to misrepresentation of our measure, but at all events to destructive criticism. We have before us an Opposition which, as far as we can judge from their speeches, are still hankering after a universal undenominational system. But, if that is their opinion, they have never challenged the opinion either of this House or of the other House on that solution. The only basis of a constructive character which has been suggested in either House of Parliament is the one to which I have alluded. It has been rejected by an enormous majority in the other House, and is only supported by a Party here which is far from being united. I maintain, therefore, that we have only criticism of a destructive character to meet; there is no question before your Lordships of a rival policy. What is the objection which is taken to our proposal? It is that a new grievance has been created by this Bill—a grievance affecting the ratepayers generally, and the Nonconformist ratepayers especially.

*EARL SPENCER: It is not a new grievance. It is a grievance aggravated by the circumstance of the enormous increase of the grant.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The grievance consists in the fact that a certain addition to the public provision for Church schools—it is a short word for denominational schools, and I use it to include all denominational schools—is not to be accompanied by a grant to the ratepayers of a predominant influence in the management of these schools. I say such a grievance has not been created by this Bill; and it is not aggravated by this Bill. For thirty years past these schools have been mainly maintained from public sources. They have been maintained to such an extent that, as we have been told by the Bishop of London and by the Bishop of Manchester, the Government grants have, in the case of many schools in the large towns, more than covered the whole of the cost of maintenance other than that of internal repairs, and the position of these schools under the Bill will be worse than it has been up to the present time. But these Church schools, that have thus been supported almost wholly from public sources up till now, have had no element of popular control except such as was exercised by the Board of Education through the Elementary School Code and through its inspectors. This Bill, in consideration of an increased subvention — a subvention from the rates — introduces, for the first time, the element of popular control over the whole of the secular education, and, to a certain extent, over the denominational teaching in these schools. That is the sole extent of the grievance, and the extent and scope of it has been enormously, I might almost say grossly, exaggerated. There has scarcely ever been an attempt made to excite popular passion and religious prejudice resting on so small and so slender a foundation.

Perhaps it cannot be said that it is altogether a credit to Parliamentary institutions that public opinion is still to so large an extent misinformed, or imperfectly informed, as to the main issues which are involved in the Bill. It must, I am afraid, be admitted that even here a far larger part of our discussion has been centred on sectarian sisues than upon educational issues. This Bill contains principles of great educational value and importance. Co-ordination, I know, is not a word that finds much favour, and I cannot profess any great affection for it myself; but it does mean an attempt to substitute order in our educational system for what is now admitted to be a state of chaos. The proposals in this Bill are an attempt—and I believe will be found to be a successful attempt — to establish that co-ordination, and to replace the existing chaos by something approaching a well-organised system. It is not, I think, fitting that the efficiency of any of our public schools should depend on the liberality, I might almost say the charity, of any private individual. This Bill establishes the principle that the efficiency of our schools is no longer to depend upon the support they may receive from any individual; it makes a public authority responsible for the efficiency of every public elementary school. It is neither fitting nor tolerable, I think, that any public school in which our children are to be educated for the work of their lives should be under the sole control of any man. This Bill does put an end, once for all, to the possibility of one-man management in a public elementary school. I submit that this Bill does contain, and does give effect to, principles of great educational value, and that the sectarian issues which have been raised — the sectarian grievances, the dimensions of which I have just attempted to define —ought not to have weight in our consideration of these great educational advantages. My Lords, I trust we are about to pass this Bill; and it will be the duty of all of us to endeavour to turn our thoughts from the barren controversies carried on amongst us, honestly, I admit, as to the sectarian issues involved, to the subject of education. If these controversies are carried from the arena of Parliament into the arena of every County Council and Borough Council, then, I admit, I shall have little hope that we shall ever be able to raise the level of our educational system to that which has been attained in many other countries. But if this should not be the case, and if, as I hope and believe, the common-sense and practical ability of our countrymen—which, I fear, does not always find full expression in Parliamentary debate—should find a fuller expression in the bodies to which we have entrusted the important duties of local administration, then, I believe and confidently expect, this measure will be found capable of conferring enormous benefits upon the country and the people who inhabit it.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 3 accordingly.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS moved[1] to amend Clause 2 (power to aid higher education) by adding the following proviso at the end of sub-Section 1—

> "Provided also that no important steps shall be taken for the promotion of higher education by the local education authority without the assent of the ratepayers being previously obtained."

He asked their Lordship's indulgence, as he was afraid that in moving this Amendment he might say things which were not quite in sympathy with the educational trend of the day. His Amendment referred to higher education, but before he proceeded to that, he desired to say a few words on the way in which the Bill dealt with voluntary schools and elementary education. Having read what has appeared in the papers with reference to voluntary schools, he was convinced that the denominational feeling was so strong that if the Government had not touched these schools they would not have perished or been thrown on the ratepayers. But the Government had thought it necessary to deal with them, and they had done so in a fair and reasonable way. As regarded elementary education, there had been a change in the Bill. In the Bill, as it was originally drafted, it was provided that elementary education was to be confined to reading, writing, and arithmetic. He was glad that these words had disappeared, because he thought that elementary education ought to extend beyond that. His Amendment referred specially to higher education. There was an excellent old saying that he who paid the piper should call the tune, or, at least, have a share in the calling of the tune; but here was a Bill which imposed taxation on the ratepayers and gave them no control over the expenditure. No doubt it would be said that they had control in electingthe education authority; but that control was only punitive. If the local education authority did anything that the ratepayers disapproved of, they could be turned out of office when their term expired—but that was shutting the stable door after the steed had been stolen. He strongly urged that there should be some such control as that provided in his Amendment. The decision in the Cockerton case was that it was not within the power of a School Board to expend money raised by local rates upon any education other than elementary, even though such education was prescribed by the Code. This Bill set that aside, and allowed the rates to be used for higher education. Speaking at Greenock, Lord Balfour of Burleigh summarised the object of the Bill in these words—

> "All cramping restrictions were swept away. The local authority might spend as much money as it chose, in the way it chose, and on the subject it chose, for pupils of any age. It might charge a fee, or it might charge no fee, and it might go up to whatever grade of education it liked. The whole cost of secular education would be paid for by public funds, and would be under popular control."

He denied that it would be under popular control, because the evil could be done before that control could take effect. What did this mean? It added another R to our educational system—it added wrangling to reading, writing, and arithmetic, because they thus might educate children at the public cost almost to the point when they might become Wranglers, and if successful what good would it do them? He asked an educational friend of his if he had ever seen a Wrangler, and he replied that he had seen one who had risen from a humble sphere of life, and that he was a bundle of bones with green spectacles, of no use to himself or to anybody else. He thought the hard-earned money of the ratepayers should not be spent in producing men of this kind. The Member for his county had said that our provision of University teaching was miserably inadequate, and contrasted shockingly with that in the United States and on the Continent, and he added that—

> "It would be necessary very largely to increase the assistance given by Parliament to teaching of the tertiary order."

So they were to have teaching of a tertiary order, and all that that implied. It was supposed that on the Continent they were better educated, and that our trade was suffering in consequence. He believed that to be a senseless parrot-cry; and in order to get to the bottom of the matter he went to the Board of Trade and obtained from the permanent officials Blue-books which went into the whole question. Here was the conclusion arrived at by the permanental head of the Statistical Department upon the statistics which had been collected—

> "Industry and manufactures abroad, particularly in the United States and Germany, have become much bigger things than they were. It is necessary, therefore, more than ever that the change of conditions should be recognised, and we can hardly expect to maintain our past undoubted pre-eminence without strenuous efforts and careful energetic improvements in 'method.'"

It was not a question of education, but of method and —

> "The problem as to how this could be remedied was of vital interest to all classes of the industrial and commercial community alike, though the assistance which the State could give in the matter must necessarily be of a very limited character."

There were 171 Consular Reports, the substance of which was that British manufacturers did not go the right way to work. They sent out men ignorant of the language of the country to which they went, and who made up for that by distributing a number of catalogues and other things printed in English. The Germans, on the contrary acted quite differently, and it was obvious that this was more a matter of method than of education. It was said that our education was faulty, but in these reports it was stated by a German thoroughly conversant with the subject that as good a technical education could be got in this country as in Germany, but that its application was faulty. Only ten days ago the noble Lord the Chairman of the London School Board, in opening a new school, stated that an educational expert from Japan had come to the conclusion, after seeing the schools of the London School Board, that our system of education was better than any that could be got in Germany. There was another cause for trade leaving this country, or for the trade of other countries increasing—namely, wages. He would give the House one instance with regard to this question of wages and trade. He went the other day to the house of Mr. Mempes, the artist, which was being re-decorated by means of beautifully carved wood made in Japan. What did their Lordships think were the wages of the men who did this beautiful work in Japan? Why, 6d. a day, and so poor were they on this wage that they lived on vegetables, and twice a week had a treat consisting of fish heads and tails because they could not afford the bodies. Could they wonder, therefore, at the cheapness of articles brought into this country, and at our being undersold? Having, as he thought, shown that in the opinion of experts our system of education was not defective, and that the question was one of method, he now came to the question of cost. The cost of education had greatly exceeded the amount contemplated by Mr. Forster in 1870. It was then said that the rate would be 3d. in the £ at the outside. The present rate in West Ham was 2s. 6d. in the £. This was the cost of education under the existing law. He had obtained from an expert the fact that education in England and Wales alone cost £12,300,000. He asked this same expert how much extra he would require before he would undertake to run this Bill, and he replied that he would be very sorry to do it under £10,000,000; therefore, they were getting on nicely. They would possibly have bodies to manage this Act consisting of educational faddists who would think nothing of the ratepayer, but only of having the most perfect and expensive system in their part of the country. He held very respectfully that the ratepayer, the man who paid the piper, ought to have a voice in calling the tune. The education authorities were no doubt elected, but after their election they could spend what they liked, and their punishment did not come until they were turned out by the ratepayers, if, indeed, the ratepayers would take the trouble to do that. His experience, however, was that, without any exception, the most asinine beast of burden that nature had yet produced was the British ratepayer. There were precedents for what he proposed in the Borough Funds Act, which enacted that a municipal authority could not promote a Bill for new powers without first obtaining the sanction of the ratepayers, and in the Public Health Act of 1879. There was also a precedent even in the present Bill, for if the building of a new school was not thought necessary, any ten ratepayers might appeal to the Board of Education. He contended that the precedent which they applied to one description of education should apply to the other, and that the ratepayer should have a voice when important steps were proposed to be taken for the promotion of higher education.

The Earl of Wemyss.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 5, after 'fix,' to insert 'provided also that no important steps shall be taken for the promotion of higher education by the local education authority without the assent of the ratepayers being previously obtained.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

*LORD REAY said he could reassure the noble Earl that the Bill did not deviate from the Cockerton judgment. It placed the age limit for elementary education at sixteen, and Mr. Justice Wills, in his judgment, said that—

> "He supposed that at somewhere between sixteen and seventeen at the highest, an age has been arrived at which no one would ordinarily call childhood."

As regards the rating power for higher education, that was not new, but was only extended. It already existed in connection with technical instruction. As to the expenditure likely to arise under the Bill, if the noble Earl looked at the amount which was spent in France and in Germany on technical and technological education from public sources, he would find that we spent, in comparison, an infinitesimal sum. He did not think that, under the Bill, this sum would be very materially increased, at all events, in the counties, although England, not less than Scotland, required agricultural and forestry schools. The school to which the Japanese expert referred to by Lord Wemyss paid such a high compliment was one of the London higher grade board schools. He said that he had seen nothing equal to the extent of the syllabus of work for the upper part of the school in Germany and in other Continental countries. That school under the Bill would retain its character of a higher elementary school. What struck the Japanese expert particularly was that our system of education gave greater freedom to the teachers, and allowed scope for their individuality. Before concluding, he wished to point out to the Bishop of Rochester that in his speech this evening on the Third Reading of the Bill, he had erroneously stated that in the Netherlands the system of religious instruction was undenominational in the sense in which it is understood in England. In a communal school in Holland such religious instruction as is given in the London Board Schools cannot be imparted. It is excluded by the Education Act.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY:) I gather that the effect of the noble Earl's Amendment will be that whenever the education authority propose to build a new technical school or to inaugurate a big scheme of scholarships, a meeting of the ratepayers must be held to consider the matter. The ratepayers, no doubt, may form some idea as to what the proposal would cost, and as to what charge it might entail upon the rates. But any such judgment of theirs on these points would necessarily be inferior to that which the Council and its finance committee would make. The financial interests of the ratepayers are surely quite sufficiently safe in the hands of their elected representatives. Surely the ratepayers are not the proper persons to revise the advice of the education committee. The proposal of the noble Earl, if accepted, would almost certainly impede the education progress of the area over which the authority is responsible. It is perfectly true that in this Bill ten ratepayers have the right, if they think fit, to protest, but they can do no more than protest; but if this Amendment were carried it would result in nothing being able to be done unless the assent of all the ratepayers had been obtained. I maintain that if this Amendment were carried it would be almost impossible to find any responsible body who would undertake the duties.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): I wish to draw attention to the fact that there are a number of Amendments, the greater part of which are alleged to be mere drafting Amendments, of which no notice has been given. I would remind your Lordships that on the Third Reading of a Bill, Amendments are not generally admissible unless notice has been given of them; but as the Report stage was, under very unusual circumstances, taken on Saturday, there has been no opportunity of following the usual procedure, and of putting down the Amendments. If your Lordships should think fit to treat the Amendments according to the strict rule, I am afraid the only result will be that we shall have to meet again tomorrow upon them. In the circumstances your Lordships will probably think we might waive the strict rule and allow the Amendments to be discussed forthwith.

*EARL SPENCER: The situation which has just been explained shows the great inconvenience to your Lordships of postponing important stages of a Bill to so late a period of the session. I think, that in the circumstances we can hardly object to drafting Amendments being proceeded with, but I wish particularly to say that in our opinion this is a rule which ought to be most strictly adhered to, and only waived under the most urgent circumstances.

Drafting Amendments agreed to

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK moved to add the following proviso at the end of the sub-Section of Clause 7, which deals with the contribution of the local authority for the wear and tear of the schools—

"This obligation on the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public fund."

This, he said, was a purely formal Amendment, and was only intended to bring the Bishop of Manchester's Amendment into conformity with the rules of privilege laid down by the authorities in another place.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 7, page 4, line 39, after 'authority' to insert 'but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds.'"—(*The Duke of Norfolk.*)

*EARL SPENCER: This Amendment is not on the Paper, and until your Lordships have it before you, it is impossible to grasp its purport. It must necessarily alter the position of affairs in regard to the important Amendment of the Bishop of Manchester, but I am not at all sure how it will work out. If it had been brought in for the purpose of annulling the whole Clause I should not so much object to it; but if it means merely that the Clause is not to throw on the rates an additional charge, then the rates which would be available for some very important matters of education may be diverted to pay for wear and tear instead of paying for these matters. I protest against this proposal, which certainly goes beyond a mere drafting Amendment, and I am not sure that we ought to accept it without further discussion.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: Perhaps the noble Earl will allow me to explain. I am dealing with two different things. One is the ordinary form of procedure in this House. After we have gone through all the Clauses on which we might raise the merits, one of the ordinary forms at the end of every Bill is to put the question that the privilege Amendments be agreed to. But this Amendment moved by the noble Duke is practically the same thing; it does not really, and cannot in itself, affect the Clause. But it allows the question to be discussed in the House of Commons. But for this Amendment, the Amendment already inserted might be rejected without discussion at all. In that way I think the Amendment of the Duke of Norfolk does not come within the ordinary rule about Third Reading Amendments, because it is one of those which we almost always put in at the end of every Bill when the question of finance arises.

*EARL SPENCER: I think that the Amendment not only raises the question of privilege, but affects the merits of the finance of the whole Bill. It is a very serious Amendment, and I do not think we ought to accept it without a division

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I understand that the only effect of the Amendment is to enable the other House, if it thinks fit, to discuss the Amendment of the Bishop of Manchester, which has already been agreed to, without the necessity of rejecting it summarily on a question of privilege. The noble Earl opposite is, of course, perfectly justified in objecting to the Amendment if he wishes to do so, but it is so important that the other House should not summarily dismiss the change in the Bill introduced by the Bishop of Manchester that we must support the noble Duke. If the noble Earl objects to discussing it now, we shall be under the necessity of meeting again tomorrow.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I shall vote against the Amendment, on the ground that I do not think it is desirable that the Amendment of the Bishop of Manchester should be discussed in the other House; because I hold that your Lordships' House had no right to introduce it into the Bill at all. Having introduced an Amendment into the Bill, which it is not in the power of this House to rightly introduce, it seems to me to be a ridiculous thing to nullify it and whittle it away by the Amendment of the noble Duke, so that it really means nothing at all. What is the good of charging the cost of wear and tear on the local authority if the local authority is not to be allowed to charge it on the rates? I do not think any of us wish to be so churlish as to cause your Lordships to meet tomorrow to discuss it, but we shall certainly divide against the Amendment, because we believe the House has exceeded its power.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 56; Not-Contents, 17.

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Verbal Amendments agreed to.

LORD RIBBLESDALE moved, as an Amendment to the Clause relating to the constitution of the education committees, to insert the words "or recommendation," after the word "nomination," with the object of enabling the Council to appoint representatives on a committee on the recommendation, as well as on the nomination, of other bodies. He was glad to say that the noble Duke had indicated his willingness to accept the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 17, page 11, line 1, to leave out 'nomination' and insert 'recommendation.'"—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am ready on this occasion to relax my "adamantine front," and accept the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*VISCOUNT LLANDAFF moved the insertion of a new Clause. He said the Amendment was of rather a technical character. The Act of Parliament which went commonly by the name of the Charitable Trusts Act, 1888, laid down a number of conditions and provisions which were to apply to the creation of charitable uses, but it excepted three sets of charitable uses, viz., grants of land for the purposes of a public park, a public museum and an elementary school. Grants of land for these three purposes were taken out of the ordinary provisions of the Charitable Trusts Act, subject to two conditions, viz., that there must elapse twelve months between the grant of the land and the death of the donor and that the grant should be enrolled with the Charity Commissioners. Considerable inconvenience had arisen from both those limitations. It had happened in many cases that the donor had died within twelve months after he had granted the land, and therefore his grant was void. This condition was for the purpose of preventing the improper procuring of a grant, but the grant of land for an elementary school was really of advantage to no individual, and the reason for requiring the twelve months to elapse before the death of the testator hardly applied. The condition that the grant should be enrolled with the Charity Commissioners caused great expense to those who wished to found elementary schools. Parliament had permitted Orders in Council to transfer the whole subject of educational trusts from the Charity Commissioners to the Board of Education, and therefore the reason for enrolling the deed with the Charity Commissioners had ceased to exist. Under the Bill no new school could be opened without the Board of Education being consulted and its approval of the scheme obtained. Therefore he hoped the noble Duke would accept his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 8, page 6, to insert the following new Clause, 'the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1888, and so much of the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891, as requires that land assured by will shall be sold within one year from the death of the testator, shall not apply to any assurance, within the meaning of the said Act of 1888, of land for the purpose of a school house for an elementary school.' "—(*Viscount Llandaff.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I accept the Amendment.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I think the Amendment is very pertinent, and should be accepted.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Bill passed, and returned to the Commons; and to be printed as amended. (No. 202.)

BRITISH TRADERS ON THE CONGO.

*LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware that the British firms trading in the Free Trade Zone of the Conventional Basin of the Congo have been compelled to close their factories on account of a decision of the Court of Libreville, that their trading forest products is illegal, and that in the adjacent French territory (French Congo), outside the Free Trade Zone, they have been fined heavily for not removing their goods and buildings after the stoppage of their trade; and whether he can give any information as to the position of the negotiations of His Majesty's Government with the French Government for the redress of these wrongs. I am putting this Question at the request of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. We do not intend any reflection on the central French Government, because we are all aware of the difficulty of controlling agents at a distance, but in this case the action of the local authorities does appear to have been very high-handed. I have also given private notice to the noble Marquess that I would ask whether he can lay any Papers or correspondence on the Table.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the subject to which the Question refers is one which has for some time past constantly engaged the attention of His Majesty's Government. The facts, speaking generally, are as stated by the noble Lord in his Question, and I am bound to say that, apart from the legal aspects of the case, it does seem to us to be one of very considerable hardship. The firms to whom the noble Lord's Question refers are the firms which really may be said to have created the existing trade in this part of West Africa, and they are now threatened with a complete loss of that trade in consequence of action on the part of the local authorities which we, as at present advised, certainly regard as involving very great hardship and injustice. At the suggestion of the French Government, representatives of these firms came to Paris, and were received in a very considerate manner by the authorities of the French Colonial Office. Various proposals were made to them, which, however, I am sorry to say, they did not find it possible to accept. At one moment it was suggested to them that their business might be taken over by the French Concessionaire Companies, but that arrangement also fell through. In July of last year His Majesty's Government proposed to the French Government that the case should be referred to arbitration; we have not yet received a reply to that proposal. In the meanwhile, I am sorry to say it is the case that actions have been brought against the firms in the local courts, and they have been fined for the infringement of the rights of the French Concessionaire Companies. I have said enough to show that we are watching the case, which we regard as one of some importance, and we shall spare no pains in order to obtain redress for the persons in whom the noble Lord is interested.

*LORD AVEBURY: I have no interest in these firms except the general interests of British commerce. I have nothing to do with these particular firms. I should like to ask whether correspondence relating to these matters can be laid on the Table.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I will enquire whether there are any Papers that can be laid.

LONDON WATER BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1:—

*VISCOUNT HAMPDEN moved to leave out sub-Section 3 (which provides for the constitution of the board), in order to insert an Amendment constituting the Water Board of thirty-three members, besides the chairman and the vice-chairman, and allotting fourteen to the London County Council, two each to the City, Essex, and West Ham; three to Kent; four to Middlesex; three to Surrey; and one each to Hertfordshire, the Thames Conservancy, and the Lee Conservancy. He felt some compunction in putting this Amendment on the Paper, because it seemed to him the discussion of this question had become somewhat unprofitable—unprofitable in the sense that all the arguments seemed to be on the one side, and all the voting on the other, which was very often the case when political considerations were allowed to intervene in matters of this kind. He had put the Amendment down because he honestly believed the Government were making a grievous mistake in the constitution of this Board. Concessions had no doubt been made by them, but the Board remained the same, over large, and also having within itself seeds of divergent opinions and conflicting interests. He said this without any hesitation, that if they were to have the principle of representation—and he supposed in these days that was inevitable—the Board should represent the whole of the London water area directly, and should be able to treat London in the matter of the water supply as one undivided whole. It should not be representative of local, sectional, and conflicting interests. That was the main argument he wanted to address to the House. The Board was over large, and was so constituted that it would be absolutely unable to obtain the advantages which ought to be derived from the transfer of the undertakings of the Water Companies. Notwithstanding what his noble friend Lord Balfour said on the Second Reading, he contended that the action of the Government had been directly against the weight of evidence, and, more than that, it had been directly in opposition to the opinions of every impartial body that had considered the question, and even against the opinions of a *quasi*-impartial body, if he might be allowed the expression—namely, the Joint Committee. He was perfectly accurate in the statement he had made. For instance, Lord Cross's Bill proposed a Board of 21; Lord James of Hereford's Bill a Board of 30; and Viscount Llandaff's Commission a Board of thirty. The counsel who represented the Local Government Board before the Joint Committee stated in his opening speech that since the report of Lord Llandaff's Commission, the Borough Councils had come into existence, and therefore it was necessary that they should have representation. That being so, it was impossible to exclude the Urban Councils, and so they had the whole of the Water Board doubled in numbers at once. Not one word was said about administrative machinery, or the efficiency of the administration, but only that the Borough Councils should be represented. It was a curious fact that no claim had been made by the Borough Councils for representation before the presentation of the Government Bill, and no evidence was adduced by the Local Government Board until the Joint Committee requested them to submit evidence in support of this request. Therefore this was entirely an afterthought. The minority of the Borough Councils protested against their being included, and the Borough Councils that did appear before the Joint Committee gave, he thought, the most childish reasons for their inclusion in the Board. The fact was mentioned by Viscount Llandaff, on the Second Reading, that some of these Urban Councils protested that the pipes of the Water Companies went through their land, and that they did not get sufficient profit from that fact.

If this question was to be understood, they must study its history. He did not want to weary their Lordships by going back any length of time; he would only go back as far as Lord Llandaff's Commission, which sat for two years and exhaustively studied the question. Although the members of that Commission at first began their inquiry with divergent views, so strong was the evidence brought before them that they came to a unanimous report. One of the Commissioners had stated that the Commission had been treated by the Government in a most unreasonable way; they had given a very long time to the study of this question, and had come to a unanimous report, but the Government had put their report in the waste-paper basket. He must say that the proceedings of the Joint Committee constituted an extraordinary piece of history. The Government took action in this matter which would not have been allowed to any other promoter. No other promoters would have been allowed to put a chairman of their own body in the chair of the Committee. No one knew better than he did how equitable and just in all relations of life was Lord Balfour, but he was in an impossible position on that Committee. He would remind the noble Lord that a man could not serve two masters; he could not serve the cause of administrative efficiency in regard to this Bill and the cause of the Government. It was impossible, and so, when the Committee came to a decision which was in opposition to the views of the Government, the sittings were suspended, or, at any rate, the counsel appeared before the Committee and expressed the profound regret of the Government at the decision of the Committee, and there was then a reconsideration. He imagined, though he could not say it as a fact, that there had been some lobbying, but in some fashion or other the decision of the Committee was spirited away, and they came to an equality of votes. The noble Lord had been attacked in that House for the method in which he put the question. He did not attack him on that point. He thought that when he got to the position of an equality of votes he was justified in the action he took, but what struck him as clever was not the method of putting the question, but the noble Lord's ingenuity in turning a minority into an equality of votes. That was the achievement most to be admired.

If they wanted to arrive at a knowledge of what the constitution of this Board should be, they had to inquire what was to be expected of it, what were the duties that the Board would perform. Lord Llandaff's Commission had set out the advantages to be derived from a transfer of the Water Companies' undertakings. Those advantages were a unity of management, uniformity of arrangements, the extension of a constant supply to the highest houses, a more rational and economical system of distribution, prevention of waste by the co-operation of the community, and the abolition of the existing arbitary divisions of the London Water area into districts. The whole of this might be summed up in one expression—unity of management. That was to say, they must treat the whole area of London in the matter of water supply as one undivided whole. Bearing this necessity in mind, Lord Llandaff's Commission made certain propositions. They proposed that the Board should be a permanent Board, and not a fluctuating one; that it should be of not more than thirty members, and, further, that no preponderance should be given to conflicting interests. What were those conflicting interests that Lord Llandaff's Commission spoke of? They were the conflicting interests between the districts of distribution—viz., London—and the districts of supply, Kent and Hertfordshire. Obviously, when Mr. Long, the President of the Local Government Board, came to look into this matter, it was impossible to reconcile those interests. It was impossible to give Kent and Hertfordshire such a preponderating voice as to protect them, and so he evaded that question and gave what was very proper, a preponderating influence to London. But he did so, not by giving the authority to the London County Council, but by the inclusion of the Borough Councils, and consequently, also, the Urban Councils, and so, in that manner, he created conflicting interests of a much graver kind, not between London and the other districts, but between different parts of London itself. That always must be the case if they had local representation. For instance, look at London and its different districts. North London and West London were supplied at a lower rate, speaking generally, than East and South London, and therefore, if they had local representation, they were sure to have divergent views, certainly on such questions as the equalisation of rates and the incidences of charge.

The Bill, as he understood it, enacted that the Water Board might, at the end of three years, bring in a Bill to equalise rates. He would like to ask noble Lords how that was going to be done? If it was to be done at the expense of the individual consumer—that was to say, by raising the rates of one consumer and lowering the rates of the other—he would advise the Government not to do that at the time of a General Election, or they would have a lively time in London. If it was to be done at the expense of the local rate, the Board they proposed to constitute would never do it, as the interests would be so divergent. They had evidence of this up to the hilt before the Joint Committee. The local rate based on ratable value would produce a larger amount in Westminster, per inhabitant, than the same rate would produce in South or East London although it was probable that the Westminster ratepayers would be better able to bear the higher rate than the residents in South or East London would be able to bear the lower one. What was the City of Westminster's attitude before the Joint Committee? It asked the Committee to make it incumbent on the Water Board to exhaust the whole rating power of the present Companies—namely, to perpetuate the existing differences—before coming on the rates at all. He held that that was clear evidence of what would happen on the Water Board. They would have all these conflicting interests fighting one against the other. Did they suppose the example of Westminster would not be followed by the other Borough Councils? They would have everyone, not thinking of the advantage of London as a whole, such as an authority like the County Council would be able to do, but looking at London from a parochial view as representing their own constituents. Could they expect effective administration from a Board constituted in this fashion? What were the duties, after all, that the Board would have to perform? They would have, for instance, such questions as the sources of supply, the distribution, the purification, and the rates of charge—questions which it would not be easy to treat from a local standpoint. The Borough Councils were elected to cleanse the streets and perform other duties which affected merely the local area; the County Council was elected for matters which affected the whole area of the county, and the distribution of water was essentially one of them. The conflicting interests of this Board would entirely prevent the Board from obtaining the main advantages of transfer, without which they had much better have left things alone. The Board was too large, members would not attend regularly, and they would not have any continuity of policy. The statement of Lord Balfour on the Second Reading, that it was a necessity for this Board to have committees, astonished him. He felt nearly staggered when he heard the number of committees the noble Lord proposed. After all, did not that show that the Government had not got a correct idea of what the duties of the Water Board would be? He thought the object of the Bill was to combine the eight companies into one whole, so that the Water Board could administer the business of the Companies from the centre. If that was so, what did they want with all these committees? The

Board would have under its control the Water Companies' officials, who were well trained, and the whole work would go like a piece of well-oiled machinery. He believed a committee of the London County Council would be able to do the whole work, and do it admirably, when they had combined the Companies into one administrative whole.

The size of this Board and the conflicting interests in it would militate against its work, and prevent, as he believed, although he hoped not, any agreement between the Companies and the Board. He was afraid that the size of the Board would almost force arbitration upon the Companies, and the costly expense that would accompany it. He quite failed to understand the action of the Government, unless they had been impelled by political motives. They had to deal with the transfer of forty or fifty millions of money, and of vast undertakings involving the control of an army of officials and labourers. What they wanted was a small, compact, experienced body, having within itself the promise of unity of management. Instead of that, they appointed a large Board having within itself the certainty of conflicting interests and jarring discord; and for no other reason, so far as he could see, than to trick the London County Council. Whatever could be said against the aggressive tactics of the London County Council, this much could be said for them, that they had experienced officials. They had studied the question thoroughly and understood it; and if they were to have the principle of representation in London applied to the water question the London County Council undoubtedly ought to have had the dominant voice in the matter.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 19, to leave out sub-Section (3) and to insert '(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Water Board shall consist of a chairman, a vice-chairman, and thirty-three other members, the chairman and vice-chairman shall be appointed by the Water Board, and the other members shall be appointed as follows:—Fourteen by the London County Council, two by the common council of the City, two by the County Council of Essex, two by the council of the borough of West Ham, three by the County Council of Kent, four by the County Council of Middlesex, three by the County Council of Surrey, one by the County Council of Hertfordshire, one by the Conservators of the River Thames, one by the Lee Conservancy Board.'"—(*Viscount Hampden.*)

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, I have certainly no reason to complain of the tone in which the noble Lord has moved this Amendment, but I am afraid that I am entirely unable to agree with the great majority of the arguments he has put before your Lordships in favour of the change which he advocates. I have no doubt that he honestly thinks that the Government are making a mistake in proposing this Board, or he would not have moved the Amendment which appears on the Paper in his name. I equally honestly, having had something to do with the early preparation of the Bill, though not much, and having spent some twenty-four days in considering it with the assistance of the able counsel upstairs, have come to the conclusion, that having regard to all the difficulties of the situation, this is, upon the whole, the best solution which can be devised. If you pass over all the considerations on the other side, and only criticise this Board on account of its size, and the divergent interests which it represents, and on account of the fact that it will be new and inexperienced in its work, undoubtedly you can make a *prima facie* case against the proposal in the Bill; but when you come to consider any other proposal which has been put forward, either before any of the Committees or Commissions, or if you take the proposal of the noble Lord on the Paper, it is easy, I think, to show that the disadvantages of that proposal are greater than those of the Government's proposal.

Just let us clearly understand the issue as presented by the noble Lords' Amendment. The Government scheme is to give representation to the six County Councils concerned, which cover the whole of the area represented in what is known as "water London." In addition to that we give representations to the County Borough of West Ham and to all the other boroughs and urban districts within the area concerned, and to the two Conservancies which I will leave out of consideration for the moment. The proposal of the noble

Viscount opposite is to delete all the representation from the Metropolitan Boroughs, the non-county boroughs outside the Metroplis, and the urban districts, and to take what I may call a County Council basis, making a Board of thirty-three in number, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. I will also leave out of consideration the Chairman and Vice-Chairman from each scheme, because they find a place both in the Government scheme and in that suggested by the noble Viscount. The noble Viscount said in his speech that the London area must have a dominant majority on this authority. The noble Lord's scheme does not give a dominant majority to London. It gives sixteen out of thirty-three, which is a minority. It gives fourteen to the other County Councils, and two to the City. The great area of London—two-thirds, at least, if not three-fourths greater in area, population, and ratable value—would be absolutely in the minority on the new Board.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The representation would be sixteen out of thirty-one; the noble Lord himself has left the Thames Conservancy and the Lea Conservancy out of the question.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: No doubt without the other elements it would have a bare or narrow majority. The point I wish to make is this, it in no way gives adequate representation to London, either in respect of area, population, or ratable value, and if it is a majority, it is in no sense a carrying out of the decision of the Joint Committee, of which so much is made, because that Committee distinctly said in its resolution that no one County Council was to be in a majority over all the other interests concerned. The position of the Government is this, that London, with all its interests on the three grounds I have mentioned, ought to have, and must have, a majority, and the only way in which, in the opinion of the Government, you can give it that majority, is to bring in the representation of these other bodies which are so much condemned by the noble Viscount opposite. They were not in existence at the time of Lord Cross's proposal, nor was the County Council, so that I think I need hardly go back so far as that. I do not know whether—I am not entitled to presume—the noble Lords who are Members of this House and of the London County Council are going to support this Amendment. [Lord TWEEDMOUTH assented.] That relieves me of some difficulty. Speaking generally, this Amendment proposes very much the same sort of Board which was proposed in Lord James's Bill in 1896. That Board was absolutely defeated by the operation of the outside Councils at that time, and I go further than that and say that there was no proposal ever made by the Government, certainly by no Government which I can recollect, which was so ridiculed and so entirely condemned as that proposal by noble Lords opposite. I will not weary your Lordships with extracts from the speeches made by Lord Tweedmouth, Lord Monkswell, Lord Welby, or Lord Rosebery. But the document prepared by the Parliamentary agent, under the direction of the Parliamentary Committee of the London County Council, contains abundant material for condemnation of the particular scheme proposed by the noble Viscount out of the mouths of the noble Lords who are also members of the County Council I will not quote, because I do not want to rest my case upon any charge of inconsistency.

I suppose noble Lords opposite would prefer that the London County Council should be the authority instead of the new Water Board. I am not surprised that it should be so, but the London County Council is alone amongst all the authorities in desiring that. The representatives of the County Council before the Joint Committee last summer did submit some sort of proposal similar to the one which is now before us in the Amendment of the noble Viscount, and that proposal was rejected on an equality of votes. I am not entitled to put it higher than that. At any rate, it did not get a majority of the Committee, and it did not get support from any one of the other County Councils which were represented, and it only received support from a very small minority of the local authorities which appeared before us. Failing that proposal, I understood at that time that the County Council wished to propose a still smaller authority, such as that suggested in the Report of Viscount

Llandaff's Commission, but an essential part of the proposal of that Commission was that the body should be an expert one, and that every member of it should be paid. Whatever may be said in the abstract of such a suggestion as that, at any rate it has found no supporters in the other House of Parliament, and, so far as I know, none in this. Therefore, I shall not detain your Lordships by arguing against it until I hear it put forward as a substantive proposal.

The first point I make is, therefore, that unless you are content to give London an insufficient representation upon the new Board, you are absolutely reduced to some such scheme as that proposed by the Government. I do not think I need go further into the procedure before the Joint Committee. The noble Lord said he would not challenge my·personal action in that matter. He told me that I was in an impossible position, and that I could not serve two masters. I was a Member of the Government at the time I was appointed to the Chairmanship of that Committee. I told the House the other day that the position was not one of my seeking, and that I understood it was unanimously desired that I should occupy the position. I believe that if I had been in the position absolutely of a free agent, as an ordinary Chairman of a Joint Committee, I could not have brought the proceedings to any other conclusion. The fact is, Party feeling ran too high, and the moment it was suggested that the Boroughs were to be struck out, or that the London County Council was to be the sole authority, it was absolutely impossible to adopt the means sometimes attempted by a Committee of saying—"You must produce some sort of a compromise amongst yourselves." That was impossible. In the end we were obliged, owing to having to deal with one or two areas not contemplated by the Bill as introduced, to increase the numbers of the Board from sixty-seven to seventy-one. In the Committee in the House of Commons a certain compromise was made which resulted in the reduction of the number from seventy-one to sixty-six, and a considerable alteration was made in the relative proportions which were to come from the County Council and the boroughs and urban districts outside London. The London County Council's representation was increased by four, and those outside London diminished by a like number. I am very far from either complaining about that, or saying that it was a compromise made in such a way as to prevent raising the question in this House. Undoubtedly, it was agreed to by both parties, and there the matter must rest. As I have said, the noble Lord's scheme is identical with the scheme rejected by the Joint Committee on an equality of votes.

I am bound to tell the House that I think it is an essential part of the Bill that representation should be given to these sanitary authorities as well as to the London County Council, partly on account of the necessity for the administration of their own work and partly, as I have said, because I believe it to be the only means by which London can be given adequate representation. It is unjust to London to give it less than its proper representation on this body, and you may depend upon it that it was as clear as possible before the Joint Committee, and before the other Committees, that the outside authorities would not consent to the London County Council having a preponderant majority on the Board. I am not going to say whether they are right or whether they are wrong, but I state the fact, and as a fact, taken by itself, it cannot be disputed, that to give the London County Council such a majority on this Board as would adequately represent the interests of London would be to make confusion worse confounded, and to stir up an amount of opposition to the Bill which, I believe, would be fatal to carrying it through its subsequent stages. I am entitled, I think, to say this, that the constitution of the new Board as proposed by the Bill is practically accepted now by all the authorities concerned, except the London County Council. Without it London would not be adequately represented, and I am entitled to make this point, although I do not in this House wish to lay too much stress upon it, that the proposal of the noble Lord not only failed to get a majority in the Joint Committee, where we were equally divided, and that when brought before the House of Commons the scheme was rejected by a majority of

105, only forty-eight Members being found to vote in favour of it. I did not understand what the noble Lord meant when he spoke of conflicting interests in London. Of course, there are divergent views, and of course the richer districts of London will dislike anything in the nature of an equalisation of rates, but I do not think that is a sufficient reason for rejecting this Board. Surely, even those who object to having their rates raised are entitled to state their views. If I were asked my opinion, I should say it was eminently desirable that, for the purposes of the water supply, London should be regarded as one entity, and the charge made similar for the whole area. So long as there were eight different companies, you could not get equalisation of charges; it could only be got by and through some such process as this Bill will arrange for. There must be an authority to acquire all the interests concerned, and then to distribute the burdens as they ought to be distributed. The reason why there is no proposal for an equalisation of rates is that this Bill is intended to be simply a transfer Bill. It is to put a Joint Water Board in the place of the eight companies, with distinct, and in some respects, if you like, conflicting interests, but to transfer the whole of the obligations of the one party to the Board, and to leave the obligations of the different authorities concerned exactly as they are at the present time. The noble Lord made great play with the Westminster proposal. That proposal was a perfectly fair subject for consideration. I am not surprised that Westminster sought to look after its own interests, but, at any rate, its proposal was unanimously rejected by the Joint Committee as entirely inadmissible, and I do not believe that in the future Westminster has much chance of getting it accepted.

VISCOUNT HAMPDEN: I thought the Joint Committee had partially accepted it—at least that they had made some change in the Bill on the representation of Westminster.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I rather think we refused to increase the representation of Westminster. But the point I was on was that Westminster proposed that there should be no equalisation of rates until every other district had been charged up to the hilt on the present powers. We rejected that because we did not think it right that any advantage should be given to one district over another until the new Board was constituted. Certainly, the Westminster proposal was rejected by the Committee. As to that I think there can be no doubt at all. While I am far from saying that the proposal in the Bill is perfect and that you cannot state objections to it, I do say that, looking at the whole question, I have come honestly and entirely to the conclusion that upon the whole it is the best scheme which has yet been proposed, and the only scheme which has any chance at the present time of being carried into effect. Therefore I sincerely hope the House will not give effect to the Amendment.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I know your Lordships' House is not a lover of vain repetitions, and I shall therefore not repeat what I said on the Second Reading on this subject. The arguments of the noble Viscount who moved this Amendment seemed to me to be strangely convincing, and the noble Lord who has just sat down has to my mind entirely failed to meet them. Lord Balfour found fault with the Board proposed by my noble friend because it was to a large extent similar to that proposed by Lord James, and which, he said, was ridiculed by noble Lords who represented the London County Council. I have no doubt we did severely criticise that Board and I think we should be prepared to criticise it again if it was proposed. Whatever objection we might have thought that Board was open to, we think it immensely increased in the case of the Board proposed in this Bill, and if Lord James's Board was ridiculous we think this one most ridiculous, and if we have to choose between the two evils, we would rather take the lesser evil. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill stated that this authority was accepted by all the bodies concerned. Yes, accepted by all the bodies except the London County authority, which is the principal authority to be considered.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Accepted by a large majority of the boroughs, at any rate.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Surely, if there is one authority which may claim to represent London it is the London County Council.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD: The only objection to the proposed Board comes from the London County Council.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Other bodies have objected as well. But, surely, it is a big exception to say that the constitution of the Board has been accepted by all the authorities except the one which more represents London than any other. The noble Lord says it has been accepted by the Borough Councils. I quite agree that many of the Borough Councils, when they were memorialised and stirred up, did pull themselves together sufficiently to pass Resolutions in favour of this proposal, but there are no less than nine Borough Councils which have passed Resolutions against this Bill. Then it comes to this that it has been accepted by all the authorities except the London County Council, which is the principal authority in London, and at least one-third of the Borough Councils. The Borough of Chelsea, in spite of all your memorials, will not express an opinion one way or the other, and I am told that on that Council the Conservative Party are in a majority of two to one. I will endeavour to compare the two authorities—the one proposed by Viscount Hampden and the one in the Bill. I leave out the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the representatives of the Thames and Lea Conservancies because they are common to both Boards. In the case of the Government Bill you have sixty-two Members, representing no less than seventy-eight different authorities, which to a very large extent overlap one another, and whose districts are, in many cases, contained one within the other. In the proposal of Viscount Hampden you have thirty-one members representing eight separate authorities which cover the whole ground to which the Bill applies, and which do not overlap in any way whatever. Surely that is something of an advantage. I would venture to press this point, that the supply of water is essentially a thing which it is desirable should be undertaken on the responsibility of central bodies which really have the interests of large areas at heart, and should not be governed by the considerations of the smaller areas. I would venture to remind your Lordships that these Borough Councils are nothing more nor less than the old London Vestries. You may put any gloss you like on them; you may decorate their Mayors with the longest of chains and clothe them with the furriest of robes, but they are the old-fashioned London Vestries, with all their prejudice and smallness of mind. By no possible means can you turn a sow's ear into a silk purse. If you were to take the plan of my noble friend you would secure that there should be represented on the Water Board only those authorities which are likely to look upon the supply of water from a broad basis, from a basis on which the interests of considerable districts will be considered. My noble friend's proposal is that the London County Council shall have fourteen members; the Common Council of the City, two members; the County Council of Essex, two members; the Council of the Borough of West Ham, two members; the County Council of Kent, three members; the County Council of Middlesex, four members; the County Council of Surrey, three members; and the County Council of Hertfordshire, one member. I think the House will agree with me that that covers the whole of the London area that is interested in the Supply of Water. The noble Lord made a great point that by the Amendment the London County Council, as representing London, which was entitled to have a big majority on this Board, would not have sufficient representation. I have no doubt the London County Council would like to have a larger representation, but it is willing to accept the representation proposed in the Amendment. It believes that with this share it will be able to do its duty to the people of London, and that it will secure sufficient support from the representatives of the outside areas to deal in a large and broad-minded way with this great subject. In the Government's proposal only one representative is given to each of the County Councils of Essex, Surrey, Kent, Middlesex and Hertfordshire, and I certainly think those authorities have every reason to object to the amount of representation that is given to them. You have two members given to the City, and two each to Westminster and West Ham; that leaves thirty-seven members to represent the Borough Councils and the District Councils. Therefore in this Bill you give an absolute majority on the whole Board to the representatives of the smaller areas, to the very men who are least capable of dealing with this subject in a broad-minded way in the interests of the larger area, and who will look upon the question as affecting their own particular borough rather than London as a whole. From that point of view the proportion in the Government's proposal is not likely to work satisfactorily. I earnestly hope that Viscount Hampden's Amendment will receive very considerable support from your Lordships.

On Question, "That sub-Section 3 stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided. Contents, 52; Not-Contents, 16.

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Earl CARRINGTON moved to provide that the Board should consist of forty-three members (instead of forty-two as stated in his Amendment on the Paper) besides the chairman and vice-chairman. He had altered his figures from forty-two to forty-three, so as to take no representation away from the City of London. He desired to compliment Viscount Hampden on the able speech he had made. The noble Lord had put the whole case in a nutshell. The County Council did not want the dominant power on the Water Board, but they wanted the dominant voice. If duplicate representation on the County Council and the local authorities was desirable, it was essential that there should be equality, and the district representation should not outweigh the county representation. He claimed to know something of the wishes of the people of London. He and other noble Lords on the Progressive side fought the last County Council election entirely on the question of housing and water, and they spoke several times a night for nearly three weeks before the election, in every part of London. He could therefore confidently assure the House that this was the wish of the people of London. He hoped the noble Lord would accept his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 20, after 'and' to insert 'forty-three'; in line 24, to leave out 'two' and to insert 'one'; and in page 2, to leave out lines 1 and 2 and to insert, 'one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Poplar and Hackney, one by the Council of the metropolitan borough of Stepney, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Stoke Newington and Islington, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, and Finsbury, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Holborn, St. Pancras, and Hampstead, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of St. Marylebone and Westminster, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Paddington and Kensington, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Wandsworth and Battersea, one by the Council of the metropolitan borough of Lambeth, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Southwark and Bermondsey, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Camberwell and Deptford, one by the Councils of the metropolitan boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham and Woolwich'; in line 14 to leave out 'two,' and to insert 'one,' and to leave out lines 5 to 10, and to insert: 'One by the Councils of the urban districts of East Ham and Leyton, one by the Councils of the urban districts of Walthamstow, Buckhurst Hill, Chingford, Loughton, Waltham Holy Cross, Wanstead, and Woodford.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I take note of the intimation made by the noble Lord that he would alter his number to forty-three instead of forty-two and allow two representatives to the City of London. I say no more on that, because I think the City of London is entitled to two. The noble Lord proposes to reduce the representation of the City of Westminster from two to one. Personally, I think the City of Westminster is entitled to two, not only on account of its extraordinarily high valuation, but on account of its considerable population. I am surprised that the noble Lord should not think Islington, on account of its population, worthy of a member. I believe it to be the largest in population of the metropolitan boroughs which the noble Lord opposite proposes to place in a group with Stoke Newington. Taking rather a larger view of the matter, what is the difference in principle between a Board of some sixty-six members and one of forty-three? They will both have to work through committees, and I cannot see, unless there is some great advantage to be got by reduction, that there is any reason for making the change. I do not think this system of grouping the metropolitan boroughs would do at all. The noble Lord proposes to put side by side the boroughs of Wandsworth and Battersea; but the noble Lord behind me commented on the occasion of the Second Reading on the extreme antagonism which was displayed before the Joint Committee by these two boroughs. They would lead a cat-and-dog life if associated with each other, and I am absolutely certain that the grouping of metropolitan boroughs would be objected to by the boroughs themselves. You would displease everybody and please nobody. I think it to be a scheme which has really no friends. It was thinly supported in another place. There is no sort of reason that I can see for taking away a member from the county borough of West Ham, which has a population of 267,000 and a ratable value of nearly £1,250,000. I hope that after the discussion we have already had, the House will not agree to make the change.

EARL CARRINGTON: I see that London has no friends, and therefore I shall not put the House to the trouble of dividing on my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee withdrawn.

EARL STANHOPE moved an Amendment to provide that there should be one member on the Water Board representing the Councils of the urban districts of Beckenham, Bromley, and Chislehurst, and one member representing the Councils of the urban districts of Penge, Bexley, Dartford, Erith, and Footscray, instead of one member representing all these urban districts. Until the previous Wednesday, when it was changed by the President of the Local Government Board, the Bill enacted that there should be one member for the County Council of Kent and two for the populous and increasing areas of the Urban District Councils of Kent; but suddenly the representation of the Urban District Councils had been reduced to one. He thought it was especially hard that this large water-supplying area should have been deprived of proper representation. He asked the House to accept his Amendment on the ground of population, the population of the urban districts being at present 145,000. The other outside authorities in the London Water area had not been deprived of their representatives in the way Kent had been. Lord Avebury felt most strongly that they were in Kent in a different position altogether from the other areas. Whereas the quantity of water which might be taken from the Thames was limited, in Kent it was all pumped out of the chalk formation at a depth of some ninety feet, and the chalk formation was being gradually denuded of water. In one district twenty-two miles from London, the wells were greatly diminished in capacity, and many farmers who depended for their water supply to their farms on wells had found their water running short. Lord Avebury was of the opinion that chalk formation only held water in suspense, and that if it was squeezed like a sponge, as it was by deep well pumping, the supply of water might be absolutely taken away. At the present time the supplies of water taken out of Kent amounted to 18,000,000 gallons a day. He urged the necessity of the provision contained in his Amendment on account of the depletion of the water supplies of Kent in order to supply South London water.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 13, after 'Chislehurst' to insert 'and,' and after 'Penge' to insert 'one by the councils of the urban districts of.'"—(*Earl Stanhope.*)

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: I am afraid I cannot accept this Amendment. I think that the plaintive appeal which the noble Earl has just made to the House entitles him to our sympathy, but I am afraid I can offer him nothing more solid than that on this occasion. He entered into the large question of the water supply being taken from Kent for the use of London. That was a question which was raised before the Joint Committee, and we held it over for future settlement and arrangement. I must remind the noble Lord that this is merely a transfer Bill, and that London has a right to draw from the large water-bearing strata in question, and if that right is to be taken out, it can only be after full consideration of all the interests and rights involved. The noble Earl is in error in thinking that Kent has been less fairly treated than any other area. I have had prepared the number of population in the various counties which have representation on the Water Board. The Kent County Council and Urban District Councils are to have two representatives, which is one for every 74,000 inhabitants. The only county which is in a more favourable situation than that is Surrey, which has one for every 66,000 of its population. Essex has one for every 85,000, Middlesex one for every 90,000, and London, even as we propose it, one for every 100,000. Therefore, there is no case on the merits for giving Kent more representation. I think it is fair that at the present time the outside areas should have in proportion more than the inside areas. In all the circumstances, I hope the noble Earl will not press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

Lord WELBY moved an Amendment providing that the Water Board shall pay to each Company, as compensation for the transfer of their undertakings, such sum as may be agreed on between the "London County Council on behalf of the" Board and the Company. He thought their Lordships would agree that this was one of the greatest transfers of undertakings that had ever been entrusted to a public body, and he thought, therefore, that it was above all things important that the new body should be in a position to state the case of the ratepayers and the water consumers as fully as possible to the arbitrators who would have to decide on the price of the undertakings. He could not help thinking that the new Board would be at a very great disadvantage as compared with the Companies in the time allowed them to prepare their case and the circumstances in which they would prepare their case. The Companies had been studying this question for years. Every year the question had been in some form or other before either Parliament or a Commission or Committee, and before all these tribunals the Companies had appeared. They, therefore, had their whole case at their finger ends, and their able and expert officers were in a position to set it forth almost at once. Further than that, they had been aware, for the last fortnight at least, that this Bill was certain to pass, and they had been able to begin their work at once, and to engage the counsel who were to represent them. But what was the position of the body who were to represent the water consumers? It was to be an entirely new body. Some twenty-four different authorities were to appoint members to the new Water Board, and some of those authorities had to elect joint authorities to be brought together in order to discharge the function of electing a representative. Their Lordships knew how difficult it was to get bodies, especially newly constituted bodies, to come together; he did not think he was exaggerating when he said they would not be in a position to meet before February, and in fixing that date he was giving the authorities who would elect the Joint Committees credit for a considerable amount of promptitude which they might not display. When the Water Board met it would consist of between sixty and seventy men, the larger part of whom would never have studied the subject before or approached it in any way. This body would be without officers and without previous experience, and the first thing it would have to do would be to learn its lesson. He felt that the new Water Board was therefore put into a very difficult position. How, under the circumstances, was it possible for them to hold their own before the arbitrators against the eight Companies, and how could they be expected to secure justice for the ratepayers and the consumers? The Government was not entirely without warning in the matter. It was now over twenty years since the celebrated scheme of 1880 was brought forward, and competent financial authorities had examined that scheme in the light of subsequent experience. Their calculation was that if the scheme of 1880 had taken effect, by 1901 the ratepayers would have lost no less than £2,865,000. The fact that such a statement could be brought forward on reasonable, financial grounds showed at once what a very tremendous case for the ratepayers was at issue, and if that was so when so much care was taken, as in 1880, in the investigation, there was greater danger in the present case when the matter was to be entrusted to a new and inexperienced body. What security was His Majesty's Government taking that in this case justice would be done to the ratepayers and the water consumers? The remedy he suggested appeared to him to be not an unreasonable one. Why not let the London County Council be the agents of the new Board? The London County Council was, at all events, in as good a position as the Companies, for its members had been studying the question for years, and it had expert officers whom it could place against the officers of the Companies. The London County Council would frankly accept the position, if it were assigned to them, of acting as the agents in conducting the purchase and preparing the case, and would then hand the matter over to the Water Board. He ventured to think that if that arrangement were made there would be some security that justice would be done to the ratepayers, who, under the present arrangement, would run considerable risk of not having their case properly presented.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 11, after the first 'the' to insert 'London County Council on behalf of the'; and in line 12, after 'Act' to insert 'as between the London County Council on behalf of the Board and the Company.'"—(*Lord Welby.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I can say quite frankly that I do not share in the least degree the apprehensions to which the noble Lord has just given expression, and I think there is one very strong reason why this course should not be taken. Surely it will be a very unwarrantable slight to put on the new Board to tell them, even before they are constituted, that Parliament thinks they will be so incompetent to manage their work that they must be put in leading strings and under the control of another body, and a body which, however eminent and excellent its services may be, represents a smaller constituency than that which the Water Board will represent.

LORD WELBY: But the same interest.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: In a great part the same interest, but not altogether. My reason for thinking the apprehensions of the noble Lord exaggerated is this. If the Bill now stood exactly as introduced, there might possibly have been some cause for the noble Lord's apprehension; but in its passage through another place a Clause was added which prevents an agreement taking effect until it has been confirmed by the arbitrators. I think that is a perfectly sufficient guarantee that all interests will be fully considered. I will not dissent in one syllable from the praise which the noble Lord gave to the officers of the County Council as to the excellent manner in which they can get up a case, or the way in which that case is presented. As I said on the occasion of the Second Reading of the Bill, I know of no body who can get up its case from its own point of view so well. There will be fourteen members of the London County Council on this new Water Board, and I have no doubt that most of the expert brains of the County Council on this particular subject will be represented. Moreover, the new Board need not make an agreement until they have got sufficient experience and knowledge to enable them to make a proper one. When they go before the arbitrators they will be able to draw on the experience of the County Council, and will be able to call any witnesses they choose, whether members of the County Council or their officers, who have experience in these matters. Taking all these considerations into account, I think it would be very unfair to the new Board to insert this Clause, and I hope your Lordships will not agree to it.

LORD WELBY did not think the fact that an agreement must be confirmed by the arbitrators before it became valid quite touched his point. The whole question turned on the information laid before the arbitrators, and he was afraid the new body would not be in a position to run the case properly. He accepted, on behalf of the County Council, the compliment which the noble Lord had paid it, but he must say that the County Council had been treated with distrust by His Majesty's Government. He was glad to hear that His Majesty's Government thought that on the new body being constituted they could rely on the public spirit of the County Council, and on the members of that body giving the best of their ability to the carrying out of the scheme in spite of the slight which had been put upon them. He thought the noble Lord might rely with confidence that they would be so. But the noble Lord had not touched the point that the Companies would be able to place their case before the arbitrators in a more complete form than a new body which must start its work under considerable difficulties.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7:—

LORD WELBY moved an Amendment to provide that the amount of water stock issued to a debenture-holder should be such an amount "as in the opinion of the arbitrators will be equivalent in value to an equally good security producing the same income." The Amendment was one to which considerable importance attached. It was proposed under the Bill that a large amount of irredeemable stock held from the Companies be taken over by the new Board, water stock being given in return. There could be no question that the security must be very much improved when there was added to it the security of the rates. The present irredeemable stock varied in amount, and was in different Companies, and was not stock that had a very ready market. When the holders received water stock in lieu of their present securities it would form part of a large amount of stock which ought to have a fair market. These two considerations led him to the conclusion that benefit would be given to the holders of these irredeemable securities when they were taken over; and it was a benefit which was shown to be marked by the stock market returns. The amount of these irredeemable securities was £4,500,000, and as much stock was to be given as would produce the same amount of income. The new stock to be given would probably be a three per cent. stock at par, and would be rather over £6,000,000. The market price of the irredeemable debentures at the close of last year was £5,650,000, showing a difference between the value of the three per cent. stock to be issued by the new Water Board and the value of the irredeemable securities of about £350,000. That was a boon given to the owners of irredeemable debentures which they had not earned, and would be given at the expense of the ratepayers. The price to be paid on the transfer should be settled by the arbitrators. He thought the arbitrators, in fixing the price, ought to eliminate as far as they could, any enhancement caused by the addition of a new security in the shape of the rates, and add on the other side what might be fair for a reinvestment of the money. The public ought to be protected by an arrangement under which the price should be settled by the arbitrators.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 10, to leave out from 'as' to 'debenture' in line 11, and to insert 'in the opinion of the arbitrators will be equivalent in value to an equally good security producing the same income as the'"—(*Lord Welby.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am sorry I cannot meet the noble Lord, but I think I can make out a very good case against him. It is an important point to bear in mind that this Clause only deals with irredeemable stock. It does not touch the question of redeemable stock, or that on which the noble Viscount opposite has an Amendment in a different direction. The point for holders of irredeemable stock is much more one of income than the actual value of their security. I do not deny for a moment that in certain circumstances it is possible that the holders of irredeemable stock may, under the Clause as it stands, get a certain bonus, but I do not admit that the bonus would come to anything like the amount the noble Lord indicates. I think the failure in his argument arises here, that he assumed the water stock must be issued at par. I believe that is not necessarily the case. The regulations under which the stock will be issued will be carefully considered by the Local Government Board. I think the 3 per cent stock is at this moment at 98 or 98½.

LORD WELBY: It was up, not long ago, to 112.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am aware that it has been higher than at present, but I am giving the actual figure which was given to me at the time of our discussion upstairs. The noble Lord is not justified in assuming that at the moment it is given to the holders of irredeemable debentures the stock will be above or even at par value. This is a matter which will remain for discussion. The effect of this Amendment would be to leave the arbitrators to determine the amount of water stock to be issued to the holder of irredeemable debenture stock, and to make the amount of water stock to be issued not necessarily such an amount as would produce the same income as the debenture stock, but such an amount as the arbitrators considered to be the equivalent in value of an equally good security producing the same income. The noble Lord bases his contention on the ground that the water stock, being secured on the rates, will be of greater value than the debenture stock of the Companies. I think that will probably be the case, and that upon the whole there will be a certain rise in the capital value of the security, but, if the Amendment was inserted, it is conceivable that the debenture-holders might get an amount of water stock which would produce less income than they receive at present. This irredeemable stock is almost entirely held by trustees who do not wish to realise their securities, and to whom the whole value of this stock lies in the fact that it is irredeemable. They look to the income they will get, and not to the fluctuations of capital value. In the majority of cases the trustees cannot afford the luxury of high security at the risk of loss of income. If there is a small rise in the capital value of this stock, it will not be more than will compensate the debenture holders for having to take a redeemable stock in place of an irredeemable stock.

Lord MONKSWELL said Parliament had decided in its wisdom that the arbitrators were to give nothing whatever in respect of compulsory purchase; but this Clause was by way of giving them something in respect of purchase.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 51; Not-Contents, 14.

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Coleridge, L.
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Monkswell, L.
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Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Sandhurst, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L. [*Teller.*]

*Viscount HAMPDEN moved to provide that water stock should not be redeemable. He did not anticipate that his Amendment would receive much support. Its object was to enact that irredeemable debenture stock should not be converted into redeemable debenture stock without the consent of the holders. That seemed to him a simple proposition of justice in dealing with public creditors, who, after this Bill became law, would become the creditors of the State. He ventured to think the noble Lord in charge of the Bill could find no precedent for the course adopted. The Clause provided that the amount of water stock to be issued to a holder of debenture stock should be such an amount as was sufficient to produce the same sum by way of income as the debenture stock in substitution for which it was issued. As long as the income was paid, and the capital was not realised, he admitted there was no cause for complaint, but a great many of the debenture holders bought their stock five or six years ago when prices were very high, and they purchased it because it constituted a gilt-edged security and was irredeemable. It was certain that a considerable number of their executors or assigns when they came to realise the stock would suffer a considerable loss. Under the Bill the holders of redeemable stock, which was a security of lower value, were given the same terms as the holders of irredeemable stock, but inasmuch as the former had almost always bought their stock at a discount, they would get a great advantage by receiving full value, and, perhaps, a bonus in addition. In taking over the undertakings of the Water Companies, the new Water Board would assume their liabilities, assets, and contracts, and one of the contracts with the Companies was that this stock should be irredeemable. The holders bought their stock on the faith of an Act of Parliament, and this was just as much a State contract as that which existed between the Government and the holders of Consols. The precedent set up in the Clause was an extraordinary one to emanate from a Conservative Government. He saw no difference in principle between the case of the holders of irredeemable stock and the holders of Consols.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 33, to leave out from 'redeemable' to the end of the Clause."—(*Viscount Hampden.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I will begin by admitting that I am not able to produce a precedent on all-fours with this proposal; but I think the reasons of public policy which make it necessary are of very serious importance. I think I can say, without fear of contradiction, that no real injury is done to any of the holders of this irredeemable stock. If you have a part of the water stock irredeemable and a part redeemable, it will prevent the possibility of the new Water Board ever consolidating the whole of its debt. I am sure the noble Viscount will not contradict me when I say that the income is assured to the holders. They will have the same income and they will have, if they choose to realise it, which I dare say they will not choose to do, a security of greater value. That, of course, is a matter of opinion. We had a very long discussion on this matter upstairs, and, so far as prophecy is worth anything, the universal testimony we received was that the stock would stand higher in capital value than the stock possessed by the holders at the present time. A considerable concession is thus made to the holders of irredeemable stock. The noble Lord seemed to imply that they were no better treated than owners of redeemable debenture stock, but they cannot be bought out compulsorily for sixty years, and the Water Board is not bound to redeem the stock for one hundred years. When you talk of loss, it is not enough to say that sixty years hence a loss will be so much if you do not realise it in the meantime; the fair way to calculate it is, what is the present value of the loss of £100 sixty years hence? Calculated in that way, the loss must be infinitesimal, and I do not believe that it will exist at all. Here we have the opposite side of the case. The point of Lord Welby's speech a few minutes ago was that we were treating these holders of irredeemable stock too well. Now it is contended by the noble Viscount that we are not giving them enough. I have said that this was one of the points that we most carefully considered. Except for the fact that you are forcing holders of irredeemable stock to take stock redeemable sixty years hence, there is no injury done to them at all. I think that in the interests of public policy, considering how very slight the risk is, the Clause ought to be passed, and I hope the House will agree to it.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH proposed the insertion of a new sub-Section in Clause 7 providing that the water stock under this section substituted for any irredeemable debenture stock should be held in the same rights, on the same trusts, and subject to the same powers, provisions, charges, and liabilities as the debenture stock before the substitution, and so as to give effect to testamentary or other dispositions affecting the debenture stock. He said the object of his Amendment was to prevent the failure of a specific bequest of irredeemable debenture stock owing to water stock being substituted for it. If a holder left irredeemable debenture stock in his will, and in the meantime it had been turned into water stock, it might be held that the bequest would fail. This provision followed the Clause inserted in railway bills when one company bought up another and substituted a certain amount of its own stock for the stock of the purchased company.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 35 ('three') to insert as a new sub-Section. (7) The water stock under this section substituted for any irredeemable debenture stock shall be held in the same rights, on the same trusts, and subject to the same powers, provisions, charges, and liabilities as those on or to which the debenture stock was held immediately before the substitution, and so as to give effect to, and not to revoke, any deed, will, or other instrument, or testamentary, or other disposition, disposing of, or affecting the debenture stock, and every such deed, will, instrument, or disposition, shall take effect with reference to the whole or a proportionate part, as the case may be, of the substituted water stock.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD COLERIDGE drew attention to the expression "in the same right," and asked whether that applied to the New River water shares, because, if it did, it would confer upon the holders of the new water stock the franchise which was now enjoyed by the holders of the New River water shares.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: This section will not apply to the New River Company shares. The noble Lord knows better than I do that the question of the remaining rights of the New River Company is exceedingly complicated and we have endeavoured to adjust a Clause so as to get rid of the difficulties, especially in regard to the franchise. But I was informed yesterday that a doubt had arisen as to the efficacy of the Clause, and the Local Government Board are so anxious that there shall be no doubt about it that they have taken the special advice of the Attorney General on the subject. A slightly altered Clause has been submitted today to the New River Company and will appear on the Paper tomorrow, when I hope to be in a position to convince the noble Lord that I have met the particular point which he has raised.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9, amended and agreed to.

Clause 10 agreed to.

Clause 11, amended and agreed to.

Clause 12 :—

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The Amendment standing in my name to Clause 12 deals with the special circumstances of Croydon and Richmond. There is no point of substance in it, and unless some noble Lord takes objection I will not occupy the time of the House in explaining it.

Amendment moved.

"In page 10, line 28, to leave out 'such day after,' and in lines 28 and 29 to leave out 'as the Local Government Board may fix.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to

Clause 13, amended and agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 :—

LORD MONKSWELL said he had received a communication with regard to this Clause from the Borough Council of Shoreditch, who were very anxious that the scheme under sub-Section 7 should be as soon as possible put into operation by the Water Board with a view of saving the expense of collecting a separate rate and having a separate body of rate collectors. He had mentioned the matter to the noble Lord in charge of the Bill, and the noble Lord's view was that it might possibly pass the wit of man to devise any scheme that would enable the charges for water to be collected together with the local rate.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I said it would be difficult to devise any scheme immediately.

LORD MONKSWELL said that if the Water Board could not put forward a scheme in the first year of its existence, it ought certainly to be able to do so within three years, and this should be made compulsory. He mentioned that the Municipal Corporations Act of 1882 provided that the borough rate should be collected with the poor rate, and by the same set of collectors. In that case the matter was extremely complicated, because the Act dealt with parishes partly in and partly out of the borough, and it was far more difficult, he should have thought, to have carried out such a scheme in that case than in the case of the water rate under this Bill.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I think it would be inexpedient to make the preparation of the scheme compulsory. I am informed that it would be quite impossible to do it immediately. It would not be safe to make this compulsory for fear of some unforeseen difficulty arising. I entirely agree, and I speak on behalf of the Local Government Board, with the noble Lord as to the extreme desirability of carrying this reform into effect. We believe it would tend to economy, and would be greatly to the advantage of all concerned. I am able to give the noble Lord this assurance, that no effort will be lost on the part of the Local Government Board to put pressure on the Water Board to prepare the scheme, and on the local authorities to agree to it. I hope the noble Lord will accept the assurance that the Local Government Board will do all in their power to bring this expedient reform into operation.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16 amended and agreed to.

Clause 17 amended and agreed to.

Clauses 18 to 25 agreed to.

Clause 26 :—

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH submitted an Amendment to sub-Section 3, which read as follows—

> "The Local Government Board may by order make such adaptations in the provisions of any general or local Act relating to the metropolitan water companies or any of them as may be necessary to make those provisions conform with the provisions of this Act."

He moved the deletion of the words "to make those provisions conform with the provisions," and the substitution of the words "in consequence of the passing." He said: All the changes that are to be made by the Local Government Board must be done by provisional order, and must come before Parliament for confirmation. The alteration I propose makes no change in the substance of the Bill, and I am sure it is a power which everyone will admit ought, under the circumstances, to be given.

Amendment moved,—

> "In page 22, line 23, to leave out 'to make those provisions conform with the provisions,' and to insert 'in consequence of the passing.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 36 agreed to.

Clause 37 :—

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The Amendment standing in my name provides that in valuing the undertakings, the debts, liabilities, and obligations of the Company are to be taken into account. It is obviously right that that should be done, but some ingenious person has suggested that unless such a provision is made it might be thought that the arbitrators were to value the undertakings and free them from their debts and liabilities. The object of this Amendment is to remove all possible doubt in the matter.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 25, line 29, after 'thereto,' to insert 'but subject to all debts, liabilities, and obligations of the company by this Act transferred to the Water Board.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, who had an Amendment standing in his name to the effect that the expression "appointed day" should mean "such day or days after the terms of purchase have been settled by agreement or arbitration," asked for an assurance that, subject to good faith on the part of the Companies in furthering, as far as they could, the arbitration proceedings, the Government would avoid fixing the appointed day before the terms of purchase had been settled by agreement. If the noble Lord would give him that assurance he would not move his Amendment.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: There was a considerable amount of discussion on this subject in the Committee, and it was one of the points which my noble friend Viscount Llandaff mentioned on the Second Reading. He was most anxious that no company should be subjected to the disadvantage of having its undertaking transferred to the new Water Board until the agreement or the arbitration as to the terms of purchase was concluded, and, if possible, the money paid. At first the scheme of the Bill was to fix a certain appointed day, with power to the Local Government Board to extend it. Arguments were put before us on both sides. The Companies to some extent mistrusted the Water Board, and the County Council, acting in the interests of the Water Board or the ratepayers of London, suggested that the Companies, or some of them, might unduly delay the arbitration and prevent the transfer at a proper time. Upstairs we gave a greater discretion to the Local Government Board as to the fixing of the appointed day, and, as part of the arrangement come to in another place, the President of the Local Government Board accepted an Amendment which made it clear that no earlier day than June 24, 1904, could be fixed as the appointed day, except with the consent of the Companies and the Water Board. The point on which the noble Viscount wants an assurance is, I understand, that even after June 24, 1904, the Local Government Board will not fix an appointed day to the detriment of a company unless they arrive at an opinion that the company has unduly delayed the proceedings before the arbitrators. I am able to give the noble Viscount the assurance that unless it is distinctly the opinion of the President of the Local Government Board that undue delay has taken place, the appointed day will not be fixed so as to put the Companies under any disability. I am quite sure we shall feel on both sides of the House that the President of the Local Government Board, whoever he may be, will be sure to do his duty fairly and honestly, and, if he does not, either House of Parliament can call him to account.

*VISCOUNT HAMPDEN said the statement of the noble Lord was satisfactory, and he would not move his Amendment.

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 38 and 39 agreed to.

Clause 40, amended and agreed to.

Clauses 41 to 46 agreed to.

Clause 47:—

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

*VISCOUNT HAMPDEN moved an Amendment to bring an officer whose salary was reduced within the scope of sub-Section 10. He said the Bill was so drafted as to make the position of these officers rather difficult. Sub-Section 4 seemed to be quite clear. It gave compensation to the officers, but it was qualified by sub-Section 6, which dealt with those officers who might be dismissed or whose services might be dispensed with by the Water Board within five years after the appointed day. He was afraid the construction of sub-Section 6 would rather limit the application of the previous sub-Section; and when they came to the sub-Section dealing with superannuation allowances, the same words were not put in as appeared in sub-Section 6—the words "or whose salary is reduced." He was advised by legal experts that there was some doubt in the drafting of the Bill whether these officers would be included in sub-Section 10. The words in his Amendment were to make it clear.

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, line 28, after 'misconduct,' to insert 'or whose salary is reduced.'"—(*Viscount Hampden.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The exact position is this. The case that the Amendment is intended to meet is that of an officer who has been in the service of the Water Board for five years, and then has his salary reduced. The noble Viscount's proposal is that he should then be entitled to retire on a pension. For the first five years he is perfectly safe, and even after the expiration of the five years he would be entitled, under Clause 6, to compensation. But if, after five years, the salary is reduced, it is quite possible that the officer might refuse to accept the reduced remuneration, and if he did he might be dismissed. In that case, if he had been in the service of the Water Company for five years he would be entitled to a superannuation allowance under this sub-Section. I think the Bill sufficiently provides for every reasonable case of difficulty. It deals with the officers on a liberal scale, and I do not think it is possible to put a large number of individual officers under a public body with the security that during the whole of their period of service they are never to have their salary reduced. It might be better for them to take a reduced salary and do less arduous work. It seems to me it would be impossible to carry on any large undertaking if the authority was to be prevented from reducing upon fair consideration the salary of any one of its officers. I think you may trust a public Board on such a matter as this. I am afraid I cannot accept the Amendment.

*VISCOUNT HAMPDEN said that if that was the intention of the Government no more need be said. But he thought their object was the same as his, and that there had been a mistake in the drafting of the Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 47 agreed to.

Remaining Clauses agreed to.

First and Second Schedules agreed to.

Third Schedule:—

LORD TWEEDMOUTH moved an Amendment to provide that any person should be disqualified for appointment to the Water Board unless he were a member of the constituent body appointing him. He could quote the speeches of the noble Lord opposite in favour of his proposal. Over and over again the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had insisted that the superiority of the Board as contained in this Bill was that it would be a representative Board, and he had told the House that the smaller Board only received acceptance from Viscount Llandaff's Commission because it was to be a Board of experts and not a representative Board. The object of his Amendment was to make the Water Board a really representative Board by providing that each member of it should belong to the particular body which sent him to the Board. As the Bill stood, they might have the whole sixty-six members of the Water Board elected, and not one of them members of the authorities which elected them. He could not think that that was what was intended. If they were to have a representative Board then the representatives, however indirectly they might be elected, should be brought into direct connection with the ratepayers. To do that they must insist that the various members should belong to the bodies which returned them. He quite admitted that a single member, say, of the Finsbury Borough Council, was not brought into any very close connection with the ratepayers of that borough, but he was with the ratepayers of the particular ward which he represented, and to that extent he had the influence of the ratepayers brought to bear upon him. If they pretended that this was a representative Board they ought to accept his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 2, after 'Board,' to insert as a new paragraph:—1. A person shall be disqualified for being appointed a member of the Water Board by any constituent authority unless he is a member of the body or one of the bodies forming that constituent authority.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: There is, no doubt, some strength in the plea for absolute direct representation, and in the case of such a body as the London County Council I think it is very unlikely that they will appoint anyone who is not a member of their own body. Therefore the suggestion of the noble Lord that you might have a Board of sixty-six representatives, none of whom were members of the bodies electing them, is impossible.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I did not say that. I said it was possible, though I did not pretend that it was probable.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Knowing my County Council as I do, I do not think it is possible. It seems to me a very great advantage that the groups of bodies who are to elect by a committee one man to represent them should be able to choose whom they like. There should be absolute freedom of choice, and no restriction whatever. I am willing to put in an Amendment to provide that if a constituent body chooses one of their own body, and that gentleman ceases to belong to the constituent body, he should cease to be a member of the Water Board.

EARL CARRINGTON said that under the Schedule as it stood men might be put on the Water Board who represented nobody and were trusted by nobody. This proposal was not originally in the Bill. The principle of the Amendment was one he had very much at heart, and he hoped his noble friend would go to a division.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The noble Lord is correct in saying that this proposal was not originally in the Bill. Although we had every authority represented—the County Councils and the other local authorities—no objection was taken to the proposal by the representatives of the bodies who appeared before the Committee, and after discussion it was accepted by my Committee by six to two. I cannot see that it is a very important point, but, on the whole, I do think it would be an advantage to the outside bodies to be able to appoint experts who would have weight on the Water Board. I think we shall be more likely to secure a business-like Board if we give that freedom. Therefore, if the noble Lord divides the House, I shall vote against the Amendment.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said he thought that one effect of this, in the case of the Borough Councils, would be that they would probably appoint their clerks to represent them on the Water Board.

On Question, "That the new paragraph be here inserted," their Lordships divided.—Contents, 12; Not-Contents, 41.

CONTENTS.

Carrington, E.
Spencer, E.

Hampden, V.

Coleridge, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Monkswell, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]

Sandhurst, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)

Bath, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Hardwicke, E.
Hillsborough, E. (*M. Downshire.*)
Lucan, L.

Morley, E.
Onslow, E.
Romney, E.
Selborne, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Knutsford, V.

Addington, L.
Balfour, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Chelmsford, L.

Colchester, L.
Congleton, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Redesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Somerton, L. (*E. Normanton.*)
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Windsor, L.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

LORD COLERIDGE moved to insert the words "or shareholder" after the word "director" in the Section which provided that a director of a Metropolitan Water Company should, until the compensation payable to the Company was determined, be disqualified from being appointed or being a member of the Water Board. He said it might often happen that a director only had a qualifying share, whereas a large shareholder might be appointed on the Water Board and negotiate the purchase.

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 25, after 'director' to insert 'or shareholder.'"—(*Lord Coleridge.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The Amendment strikes me as going rather far. Of course, the supposition is perfectly accurate that some shareholders might hold more stock or shares than a director, but I do not think it is likely they would stand for election. It is extremely improbable, if they did stand, that they would be elected, and I do not think a man should be disqualified from being appointed a member of the Water Board if he only holds a single share in a Water Company. As this Amendment has not been placed on the Paper, I have had no opportunity of consulting those who are more responsible for the Bill than I am. If the noble Lord will place his Amendment on the Paper, I will promise to consider it between this and the next stage of the Bill.

LORD COLERIDGE intimated that he would put the Amendment down, in order to give the noble Lord an opportunity of considering it.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

LORD RIBBLESDALE, who had given notice to move the insertion of a new paragraph providing that—

"Any member of the Water Board shall cease to be member of that Board, if and when he ceases to be a member of the body or of one of the bodies forming the constituent authority by which he was appointed a member of the Water Board."

—said the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had placed a new paragraph in his hands which he thought met the case. It was to insert, after the word "Board," the following:—

"If a person appointed to be a Member of the Water Board is a Member of the Council or one of the Councils by whom he is appointed, he shall, if he ceases for two months to be a member of that Council, at the end of that period vacate his office as a member of the Water Board."

He accepted those words, and begged to move the Amendment in that form.

Lord Coleridge.

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 27, after 'Board,' to insert the above new paragraph." —(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

LORD RIBBLESDALE said everything was provided in the Bill except the term of office of a member of a Joint Committee, and as three years seemed to be the period generally accepted, he moved that that term be fixed.

Amendment moved.

"In page 37, line 6, after 'thereon' to insert as new paragraphs: 10. The term of office of a member of a Joint Committee shall be three years. 11. On the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and seven, and on the first day of January in every third year hereafter, all the members of a Joint Committee shall go out of office, and their places shall be filled by new appointments, but a person going out of office may, if otherwise qualified, be reappointed."—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I think three years will be the period of office, but the noble Lord's Amendment will not do in its present form. The first Board will go out of office probably in June, 1907; at any rate, the appointment will be a triennial one. Most of the constituent bodies that will elect members to the Water Board come into office about the month of April. If January 1 is fixed for the retirement of the members of a Joint Committee, as proposed in the Amendment, it will mean that the new appointments will be made by dying bodies.

*LORD RIBBLESDALE said he recognised that January 1 would be a very inconvenient date. He therefore desired to substitute May 15 for January 1 in his Amendment. As the new bodies came into existence on or about April 15, that would allow them a month to get into working order.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I do not think that will do either, because all these bodies will not come into existence at the same time. It is very expedient that careful and detailed regulations should be made for the conduct of this election. That can best be done by the Local

Government Board after careful inquiry. This method of election does not touch bodies like County Councils and Borough Councils, which elect members themselves without reference to other authorities, but only the Joint Committee, which has one duty only, that of appointing the representative to the Water Board. I am sure it will be better, in the interests of all concerned, that the Clause should remain as it is, rather than put stereotyped provisions in the Bill which would not work.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: Do I understand that the retirement of a Joint Committee is to be fixed by Parliament, or left to the option of the Local Government Board?

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I understand that the Joint Committee will expire after having elected the member to the Water Board. There will be no further use for it. There is no object in keeping it alive, because, having once sent its member to the Water Board, it will not be required again till a vacancy occurs.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

LORD MONKSWELL moved an Amendment providing that the term of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be one year instead of three years. He said it was entirely contrary to all precedent that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of a body of this kind, which would be for the most part inexperienced, should be elected for more than one year. He did not mean to say that if they had a good Chairman or a good Vice-Chairman they should not re-elect him, but he thought it was desirable that the term of office should only be for one year.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 37, lines 10 and 11, to leave out 'Chairman and Vice-Chairman, or' and to insert 'the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board shall be one year, and the term of office of.'"—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I think the noble Lord has himself given an extremely good reason why the period of three years should be adhered to. He said the Board would be large and inexperienced, and argued that therefore they ought to have an annual election of chairman. I venture to think that the more inexperienced the body is the more it requires experienced guidance, and it would be better that the chairman should be a man of experience with a certain tenure of office. I know that it is the case in England that mayors and chairmen of local authorities are appointed for one year only. I may be, perhaps, excused for preferring the Scottish custom, which allows a Provost to hold office for three years. This Amendment was raised on Report Stage in another place, was discussed at certain length, but was opposed by the Government and negatived without a Division. I hope, in the circumstances, the noble Lord will not press it.

EARL CARRINGTON hoped the noble Lord would reconsider his decision.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I can hold out no hope of the Government changing its opinion on this matter. It has been very deliberately considered and agreed to, and if a precedent is wanted I would refer to the chairmanship of the School Board for London, which is not changed during the three years' tenure of office of the Board.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 39; Not-Contents, 11.

CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)

Bath, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Hardwicke, E.
Hillsborough, E. (*M. Downshire.*)
Lucan, E.

Onslow, E.
Romney, E.
Selborne, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]

Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Knutsford, V.

Addington, L.
Balfour, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Colchester, L.
Congleton, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Redesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Somerton, L. (*E. Normanton.*)
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Windsor, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Carrington, E.
Morley, E.
Spencer, E.
Coleridge, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Monkswell, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Sandhurst, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; the Report of the Amendments to be received Tomorrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 203).

GLASGOW CORPORATION (WATER AND GENERAL) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Third Report from the Select Committee considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

MILITIA AND YEOMANRY BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, I trust, even at this late hour, I shall be interpreting the wishes of your Lordships if I say just a few words in reference to the Bill that I now have the honour to move. The object of this Bill is to provide a Reserve for the Militia and Yeomanry, and it is in accordance with the modern idea of possessing as strong a Reserve as possible in all branches of the service. It is proposed to recruit from two classes: from men who have completed their term of service with the colours and with the Reserve, and from men who have served a certain number of trainings with the Militia or Yeomanry. It will be in the recollection of your Lordships that by the Militia and Yeomanry Act, 1901, the Yeomanry, which had hitherto been to all intents and purposes an independent branch of the service, was placed practically on the same footing as the Militia, and it naturally follows that, in creating a Reserve for the Militia, it is necessary also to create a Reserve for the Yeomanry. As regards the Militia Reserve, I do not think I need say more than a very few words to prove how necessary it is that we should have such a force. During the South African War, the old Militia Reserve, which was a Reserve only in name, consisted of 30,000 men. Before the war was eight months old, these 30,000 men were absorbed by the regular forces. The Militia, when they were embodied, were, therefore, minus their Reservists, and the battalions sent to South Africa had absolutely no means of replenishing their ranks except by the recently joined recruits that were sent out. This, I am sure your Lordships will agree, was an undesirable state of affairs, and it is therefore with full confidence that I ask your Lordships to accord a Second Reading to this Bill, which will enable the military authorities to create a real Militia Reserve and place the auxiliary forces, as regards the Yeomanry and the Militia, on a sound, and I hope, a far more satisfactory basis than they have been in the past.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*)

THE MARQUESS OF HERTFORD: My Lords, at this late hour I do not propose to discuss the provisions of the Bill. I merely rise to ask the noble Earl a question in which the Yeomanry are very much interested, viz., whether he can state if it has yet been decided whether the Yeomanry training is to be for fourteen or seventeen days. I believe that if the training is to be for seventeen days, a great many men will be obliged to leave the Yeomanry force, because their employers, who are perfectly willing to give them leave for a fortnight, cannot allow them to break into the third week. The doubt which at present exists as to the length of the training is acting very prejudicially against recruiting.

THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: I should like to ask the noble Earl to explain one little matter in this Bill. The whole system of the Bill seems to be subversive of the principle we have gone on hitherto as to the sanctity of the territorial system, because, under this Bill it will be possible to transfer a man in this newly-formed Militia Reserve from, say, a Yorkshire regiment down to a Cornwall or Devonshire regiment. That might act prejudicially in some respects. But, on the whole, I should say the formation of a Militia Reserve is a most important and excellent step to have taken. I am well aware what a sham the old Militia Reserve was, because the Militia Reservists in time of war went straight off to the Regular battalions. Under this system the Militia will have a permanent Reserve. That is a very valuable thing. Nothing disheartens the Militia more than to find, when they go to the front, that a quarter of their entire strength, many of them being the best and most seasoned soldiers, have been absorbed by the Regular battalions of their territorial regiments. I should like to know whether this transference is to take place during embodiment, or if there is any system of training during which that transference will take place.

LORD MONKSWELL: Do I understand that it is intended that the men in the Reserve should have no training? If not, what amount of training are they to go through, and will a man in the Reserve know what the intentions of the War Office are with regard to the relaxation of the training which, under other Acts of Parliament, he would be subjected to?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I am extremely sorry that noble Lords should have found it necessary to ask these questions, because, obviously, I should have explained them in introducing the Bill. I did not do so merely for the convenience of the House. In reply to the noble Lord behind me, I do not think his question actually arises in connection with this Bill. Perhaps he was not present a few nights ago when I was asked a question with regard to the forthcoming issue of the Yeomanry Regulations. I then stated that these new regulations would be provisionally issued on the 1st of February. I gather from the noble Lord that the question whether the Yeomanry are to serve for fourteen or seventeen days is one o immediate importance. I am unable to answer his question tonight, but I will draw the attention of the Secretary of State to the matter, and if a decision can be arrived at in the course of a few days on that point, and it is possible to make it public, I shall endeavour to do so. As to the question raised by the noble Marquess, he seems to be under the impression that the provisions of this Bill are contrary to the territorial system existing in this country. I can assure him that the provisions contained here for the transference of men from one battalion to the other are wholly in accord with the existing system in the Regular Army as regards the Reserve. When a Reservist is called up, although the authorities naturally place him in the battalion in which he served, if possible, they are at liberty to attach him to any regiment they may think necessary. As to the Militia, we should only call up Militia Reservists in the event of a national emergency, and when a general mobilisation takes place. In Cornwall there are many Militia battalions which are only about 200 strong, whilst there are in Lancashire Militia Batalions very much over strength, and the authorities think it is essential that they should reserve to themselves a right, on a national emergency arising and a general mobilisation taking place, to make use of Reservists to strengthen the weak regiments rather than to place them to regiments which are already over strength. In reply to the Question of the noble Lord opposite, I would point out that Sub-section 2 provides that—

> "All regulations made in pursuance of this Section shall be laid before Parliament as soon

as practicable after they are made, if Parliament be then sitting, and, if Parliament be not sitting, as soon as practicable after the beginning of the next session of Parliament."

The Bill, of course, does not enter into any detail, and in order to give effect to it regulations must be issued. As I stated the other night, the Secretary of State is shortly going to appoint Advisory Boards for the Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers. The principal duty of these Boards will be to consider regulations appertaining to the force to which they belong. The regulations under this Bill will be issued provisionally, and the Yeomanry and Militia Advisory Boards will have an opportunity of considering them and of making such suggestions to the Secretary of State as may be necessary to secure their thorough working.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

OSBORNE ESTATE BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without Amendment; then (Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and LXV. having been suspended); Bills read 3_a, and passed.

MAIL SHIPS BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Twelve o'clock a.m., till half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 15*th December*, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Liverpool, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Return showing for the year ended the 31st day of August, 1902, (1) the number of public elementary day schools and higher elementary schools which charge fees; (2) the number of free scholars in those schools; (3) the number of scholars paying fees in those schools; and (4) the school fees charged [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Second Annual General Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 1901–2 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (IRELAND)

Copy presented, of Report of Inquiry, held in November, 1902, into the facts and circumstances connected with or relating to the treatment while in Limerick Prison, and the nature and cause of the illness, of Mr. Timothy Flanagan, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (IRELAND) (POPULATION).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd October; Mr. Thomas O'Donnell]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

Copy presented, of Speech by the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, on the work of the Conciliation Boards in the Central Provinces [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY (EXTENSION FROM BANAVIE TO MALLAIG).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade as to the condition and working of the Banavie and Mallaig Railway, the rates and charges for traffic, and the receipts and expenditure of any Company in working the Railway, for the year ended 31st March, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 396.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Imperial Service Order—War Office Clerks Serving during the South African War.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether those members of the clerical staff of the War Office who retired previous to 9th August, 1902, but served during the late war, might be specially considered in connection with the Imperial Service Order.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) As the Statutes of the Imperial Service Order provide that the Archives of the Order shall be kept in the Home Office, this question has been referred to me. In answer, I can only say that I deprecate the practice of addressing Questions to Ministers with regard to Decorations or Orders the grant of which rests solely with His Majesty the King.

Education Bill—Rating of Non-County Boroughs having Endowments.

MR. CAUTLEY (Leeds, E.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the case of Dewsbury, a non-county borough having endowments for secondary and technical education amounting to £1,842 annually, the West Riding County Council will under the provisions of the Education Bill be empowered to levy one uniform higher education rate upon Dewsbury as well as the rest of the county, or only to levy on Dewsbury a rate sufficient to provide the difference between the annual cost of the secondary and technical schools in Dewsbury and the sum of £1,842; and how under the Education Bill the benefits of the above endowments are secured to Dewsbury over and above the rest of the county.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) The amount of the rate required by the County Council of the West Riding for education other than elementary will be in the discretion of the County Council, irrespective of any income from endowments which may be at the disposal of any particular school or authority. Clause 19 (1) (*a*) empowers the County Council to deal specially with particular areas. The point referred to in the Question will be affected by the provisions of the Education Bill in precisely the same manner as it has been affected since 1889 under the Technical Education Acts.

Education Bill—Clause 11—Second Schedule, Rule 15.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he can state at what date a Municipal Council will become a local education authority for the purposes of Clause 11 of the Education Bill; and what powers a local education authority will possess to obtain from trustees, managers, and others information enabling them to make an application for an Order, or to advise the Board of Education with regard to any Order sent to them under sub-Section (2) of Clause 11 of the Bill.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The powers conferred by Clause 11 of the Education Bill may be exercised, if necessary, as soon as the Bill becomes Law. Rule 15 of the Second Schedule provides for the supply of information on reasonable requirement by managers of a public elementary school to a local education authority immediately after the passing of the Bill.

Ministries of Commerce in Foreign Countries.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that the last Report on the Constitution and Functions of Ministries of Commerce was laid in 1889, since which date all the principal countries of the world have more or less reformed their administration of Trade and Commerce, he will grant a return up to date, showing the manner in which Trade and Commerce is administered in the principal countries of the world, and the powers conferred on the Minister of Commerce by those countries which possess such a Minister.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) I shall be happy to collect further information for presentation to Parliament.

Sugar Bounties—Effect of Abolition on Leeward Islands Sugar Estates.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to a dispatch from the Governor of the Leeward Islands to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which it is stated that the abolition of sugar bounties will mean immediate ruin to many estates in the Leeward Islands; and, whether, in view of the circumstances under which these bounties are to be established, he proposes to take any steps to compensate the owners of such estates.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) In the despatch to which the hon. Member refers, the Governor was urging the introduction of modern machinery as vital to the success of the Antigua sugar industry whether bounties were abolished, or not, but in estimating the immediate effect of the abolition of bounties on the American market, the Governor has fallen into an error, since, when the United States countervailing duties are taken off, the Continental State bounties will also be taken off, and the effect of the one will neutralise the effect of the other, and the position will be as before; while, as regards the more important Cartel bounties, which have never been countervailed in the United States, West Indian sugar will obtain the full benefit of their abolition, and will, therefore, be in a better position in the United States market than before the abolition of bounties.

Scottish Continuation Classes Grant—Proportion for Crofting Counties.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate whether he is yet in a position to say how much of the £95,000, which has been granted by Parliament this year for continuation classes in Scotland, will be expended in each of the Highland crofting counties.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The amount of the grant in question which has already been paid to schools in the crofting counties is £2,455 17s. 10d. There are still two important cases outstanding. The claim in one case has not been sent in, and in the other it has not yet been adjusted.

Wick School Board District—Extension of Area.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland, to state if he has received an application to extend the Wick School Board district to the area which has been added to the burgh by the recent Provisional Order; and, if so, whether he has arrived at a decision in the matter yet.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) Such an extension of the Wick School Board district as is contemplated in the hon. Member's Question might be made by the Scotch Education Department under the Education Act of 1878, or by the Secretary for Scotland under the Local Government Acts. No application for such extension has been made to either Department.

Hanwell Poor Law Schools—Ears and Throat Diseases.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will give information as to the number of children in the Hanwell Poor Law Schools who are now suffering from diseases affecting the ears and throat; whether he will say what number out of the 88 mentioned in Mr. Cheatle's report, published early in the year, as being in danger of their lives and requiring surgical attention, have been operated on; and whether the Board of Management have issued a report on the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have made inquiry, but have not at present received definite information as to the number of children in the Hanwell schools suffering from diseases affecting the ears and throat. Many of the children who were examined by Mr. Cheatle have since left, while there have been many new admissions. Of the number of cases mentioned in the report referred to, 73 have been successfully treated at the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat and Ears, Golden Square, and 12 more are going to the hospital to-day. Under an arrangement with the hospital authorities 12 cases are received weekly for examination and operation. The managers have not yet issued a report on the subject.

Torpedo Boat No. 81.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the reasons why Torpedo Boat No. 81 has been placed in the repairing dock, and how long she has been there.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Torpedo Boat No. 81 went ashore during the manœuvres of 1901, and was badly damaged. Her salvage was, however, effected, and she was brought back to Portsmouth, and placed in No. 5 Graving Dock at that yard on the 19th August, 1901, since when she has remained there to relieve the pressure upon the basin space required for other ships, pending the completion of arrangements for reboilering and thoroughly refitting her. Had the dock been required for other purposes in the meantime she would have been floated out.

Naval Gunnery—Telescopic Sights.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether telescopes for the purpose of improvement in straight shooting are supplied by His Majesty's Government to naval officers, or whether such telescopes are purchased by the officers in question from their private resources.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Telescopic sights are provided for certain types of guns, and the supply is being extended as manufacture admits. It is not the practice to furnish telescopes to the officers who are already in possession of them as a necessary part of their equipment.

Marine Artillery and Light Infantry.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state what is the average cost per head of training the Royal Marine Artillerymen and the Royal Marine Light Infantrymen from the time they join until they qualify as trained naval gunners, or are regarded as efficient; and what proportion of the Royal Marine Light Infantrymen qualify as gunners.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The information asked for in the first part of the Question will take some little time to compile, but I shall be happy to send it to the hon. Member if that will meet his wishes. As regards the second part of the Question, there is no rating of gunner in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, but practically every man qualifies as a "trained man," and receives extra pay as such. The exact proportion could only be ascertained by an examination of the pay sheets at the depôts and elsewhere, and would involve considerable labour.

Uganda Railway.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the cost up to the present date to the British Treasury of the Uganda Railway.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The actual sum expended up to date which has been defrayed by the Treasury, or for which the Treasury will be liable, is £5,207,199. This sum is being repaid with interest by a sinking fund, and £373,222 5s. has already been devoted to this object.

Condition of Macedonia.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House the substance of any recent Reports received from His Majesty's Consular Officers in Macedonia regarding the condition of affairs there; whether it is proposed to present to Parliament Papers on the subject; and, if so, when those Papers will be presented.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) According to the latest reports from His Majesty's Consular Officers in Macedonia, tranquility seems for the time to have been restored. Small isolated bands of revolutionists are, however, still endeavouring to create disturbances in the more inaccessible parts of the country. His Majesty's Government are considering whether Papers in regard to the affairs of Macedonia can with advantage be presented to Parliament.

South Africa—Transfer of Blockhouses from Military to Civil Authorities.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in view of the fact that the blockhouses in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies were taken over by Lord Milner at a valuation agreed upon by him with Lord Kitchener, will he quote the amount of that valuation; and to whom the blockhouses have since been sold, and at what price.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) It is understood that these blockhouses were taken over by Lord Milner for a lump sum of £50,000, and that they are on sale to the inhabitants of the districts at prices varying according to size.

Pretoria Field Force Canteen.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he will state the number of contracts which have been entered into since the termination of the war for the supply of provisions and beverages to the Field Force canteen at Pretoria; will he state whether excisable liquors thus supplied are exempt from tax, the number of tenders for each liquor contract, and whether the lowest tender for each such contract has been accepted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) There is no information to be given beyond that furnished to the hon. Member in reply to a similar Question put on the 2nd instant.†

West African Railway Contracts.

MR. W. F. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercrombie): To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he can state the names of the firms who were invited to tender, and did tender, for railway material in respect of the Sierra Leone, Lagos, and Gold Coast Railways, also for coal for their use, and the quality and prices paid for delivery of coal and rails delivered at the various ports: And whether he will permit a Return to be prepared in detail of the cost of material and construction connected with the Lagos Railway.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) The Question seems to have been asked under a misapprehension. The West African Railways have not been built by contract, but departmentally. Tenders have been invited from time to time for materials, etc., as required, and to give the information asked for would involve practically a reproduction of the accounts of the construction of the three railways from the beginning to the present time. It is proposed to lay Papers shortly with regard to these railways.

Irish Reformatory and Industrial Schools.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that of the seventy reformatory and industrial schools in Ireland only six schools presented accounts for the year 1901 audited by a chartered accountant, and whether, seeing that previous complaints to the same effect have been disregarded by the managers of these schools, he will state what steps the Irish Government propose to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The managers of reformatory and industrial schools (with one exception, that at Baltimore, the accounts of which are audited in connection with the Education Endowments Act of 1885) are not at present required to submit audited accounts. The accounts of the five other schools in question are audited in pursuance of arrangements voluntarily made by the respective committees of management. It does not appear to be necessary, upon the information before me, that special steps should be taken to require these institutions to submit their accounts to audit.

Reserve Officers.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that the step in rank given to the Reserve officers for their services during the Boer War, which appeared in the *Gazette* of the 17th October last, was substantive, he will explain why those officers are shown in the November Army List as still holding their former rank; will he state whether the promotion given to the Reserve officers in the *Gazette* of the 17th October is to be antedated, in view of the fact that the delay in complying with the instructions contained in the Circular Letter of the 3rd of April to general officers, calling for the names of Reserve officers recommended for promotion, was not the fault of these officers; and will he explain why a Reserve officer re-employed during an emergency is deprived by Royal Warrant of his gratuity on completion of a period of service entitling him to a higher rate of retired pay.

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†See preceding volume, page 919.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) For the first part of the Question the hon. Member is requested to refer to the reply given to a Question put by the hon. Member for Northampton on the 11th instant.† It was decided that no antedate should be given officers promoted in the *Gazette* of the 17th October, and that all should bear the same date. As regards the last part of the Question, it has been explained on previous occasions that an officer cannot draw both gratuity and increased retired pay.

Army Clothing Contracts—Alleged Sweating.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the Secretary of State for War what measures are taken to insure that the Government contracts for military clothing are executed in factories and not by outworkers; whether prices paid to women for making khaki trousers and tunics at the Royal Army Clothing Factory have been reduced from 3s. 9d. and 1s. to 2s. 6d. and 7d. respectively; and whether he will give an assurance that what is known as sweating shall not be sanctioned in establishments under the control of the War Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The right hon. Member has been misinformed in regard to the figures quoted. No changes in price have been made since 1898, when that for a tunic was fixed at 3s. 1d. The price for trousers, 11⅛d., has not been altered. The contracts for making up clothing contain very strict clauses to prevent work being done at home, and to prevent sweating; frequent inspections of factories are made, and penalties are inflicted where firms are proved to have infringed the clauses.

Army Medical School—Professor Wright.

MR. GOULDING (Wiltshire, Devizes): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether Professor Wright is resigning his appointment in the Army Medical School in consequence of the refusal of the authorities to allow him to pursue his investigations in connection with typhoid inoculation at a London hospital.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) It was considered that, as the duties of the post to which Professor Wright had been appointed at St. Mary's Hospital would seriously interfere with those in the Medical Staff College, he should not be allowed to hold this appointment at the hospital. Professor Wright preferred to retain the latter, and has accordingly resigned his appointment in the Medical Staff College.

South African War—Furlough Allowances for Returning Troops.

SIR ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the usual practice of the War Office has been to station regiments returning from active service in South Africa near their depôts, thus allowing men going on furlough the opportunity, without unnecessary expense, of visiting their relatives; whether the number of battalions recruited in Scotland and the north of England is too great to allow of all returning being quartered in or near their own districts, thus creating cases where a man's railway fare and travelling expenses between the regimental district and the station where the regiment is quartered may amount to as much as two pounds or more; and whether, in cases where a battalion has been abroad for more than two years on active service in South Africa, and is stationed more than 100 miles from its regimental district, he will arrange that some allowance for railway fare shall be made to men proceeding to their own regimental district on furlough.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. As regards the second paragraph, there are not sufficient stations in Scotland to quarter the regiments recruited there. Return tickets are, however, granted for soldiers proceeding on furlough at single fare, and there would appear to be no sufficient grounds for making the suggested extension of this grant.

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†See page 911.

Education Bill—Payment of Old Grants pending "Appointed Day."

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether grants under The Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, and under Section 97 of The Elementary Education Act, 1870, as amended by The Elementary Education Act, 1897, will continue to be paid until the date on which the new local education authority becomes responsible for the maintenance of elementary schools within the area of that authority; and, whether, having regard to the fact that the aid grant s usually paid to voluntary schools in one sum to be expended during twelve months, and that the managers of voluntary schools have been encouraged to incur expenditure in anticipation of such aid grant being received, the Board of Education will make to such schools aid grant payments for any period which may elapse between the close of the school year and the date on which the new authority becomes responsible for maintenance; and whether the provisions of Clauses 11 and 12, Second Schedule of the Education Bill, apply to the above-mentioned grants as well as to the ordinary Parliamentary grant.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) In answer to the first and second paragraphs of the Question, I may say that both the grants named will continue to be payable up to the "appointed day." The answer to the third paragraph is in the affirmative.

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Government Aid for Unemployed Reservists.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how many reservists are destitute and unemployed in this country; whether he can say how many reservists have returned from South Africa, and of these how many have obtained permanent employment through Government bureaux; whether he will recommend that emergency works should be started during the winter months for destitute and unemployed reservists of certified good character; and whether the Government, by grant or otherwise, supports or recognises any association for the employment of Reserve or discharged soldiers.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): It is not possible to state how many reservists are unemployed, nor how many have obtained employment through various offices without calling for Returns. Even if these Returns were obtained, they would not be entirely reliable, as the men register their names in several societies, and when they obtain employment by means other than through these agencies do not intimate this fact, and therefore remain on the books. The numbers of mobilised reservists, men due for transfer to the Reserve, Militia reservists, and discharged time-expired men, amount to about 80,000. The Government support the National Association for the employment of Reserve men and discharged soldiers by subsidy, and supervise the regimental and other military associations. In order to prevent distress, reservists are being permitted to rejoin the colours, and remain until they can obtain employment up to a limit of a year. Six hundred and fifty-three have availed themselves of this permission up to date.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): May I ask whether the Government are prepared to subsidise all organisations for finding employment for civilians out of work as well as reservists?

MR. BRODRICK: The Government cannot subsidise all such organisations. The organisation mentioned in my answer was subsidised by the Government with the consent of the House, because it finds employment for men who have served the country in the field.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: On what grounds are special terms given to this organisation as against similar organisations?

MR. BRODRICK did not reply.

2nd Provisional Regiment of Hussars.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what cavalry regiments the officer recently appointed to command the 2nd Provisional Regiment of Hussars has commanded; and whether it is proposed in future to appoint cavalry officers to command infantry battalions.

MR. BRODRICK: The Cavalry Brigade which Colonel de Lisle commanded was drawn from the 1st, 3rd, and 7th Dragoon Guards and 14th Hussars. As regards the second part of the question, a cavalry major has been brought into the infantry regiment out of which Colonel de Lisle was promoted into the cavalry, and he will, it is assumed, aspire to command it.

*COLONEL LEGGE: Is it part of the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman that officers are in future to be transferable from one branch of the service to another?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir, it is not a question of the scheme. It is whether the Commander in-Chief, having found an officer particularly well fitted to command mounted troops in the field, is to be allowed in time of peace to be employed in commanding unmounted troops.

Examinations for Officers' Commissions.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the Memorandum lately issued officially to certain regiments stating that officers who received direct commissions during the war without examination are to go up for examination on or about 1st February next in arithmetic, mensuration, algebra, Euclid, geography, and history, he will say whether it is intended that such of those officers who are now stationed in remote places abroad, where the means of tuition are not accessible, shall come under this regulation; and whether the examination will, or may be, followed by a withdrawal of commissions in cases where officers fail to pass it.

MR. BRODRICK: Nothing whatever is known at the War Office about this Memorandum. Perhaps the hon. Member would kindly forward me a copy of the document.

27th Regimental District Command.

MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state on what grounds an officer of the 8th King's Regiment was appointed to command the 27th Regimental District at Omagh; and whether there were any officers belonging to the district regiments available.

MR. BRODRICK: There were no officers having regimental claims who were available when the command of this regimental district fell vacant, and Colonel Mellor, who was an applicant for the post, was selected. He is well acquainted with the district and is a landowner at Coleraine.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Why is it that the Irish officers who have passed through all the dangers of the war in these regiments are passed over in favour of English officers?

[No answer was returned.]

Defence of the Channel Islands.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet considered the draft reply, drawn up by the States' Special Committee, to the Privy Council letter of the 12th May, addressed on the advice of the War Office to the Bailiff of Jersey, and unanimously adopted by the States at their meeting on Monday last; whether it has been the policy of the War Office throughout the correspondence that the allotment of 2,000 regulars to form in time of war the nucleus of the land force required for the defence of the Channel Islands is only made on the understanding that Jersey as well as Guernsey should provide an effective force of Militia; what steps he proposes to take in view of the reply of the States of Jersey; and whether the Question of the possible superiority of local naval defence for Jersey over defence by regular land forces has been considered; and, if so, by whom.

MR. BRODRICK: No representation from the States of Jersey has as yet reached the War Office, so that I am not in a position to make any statement. I think the Hon. Baronet will agree with me that it is not expedient in the interests of national defence to discuss the other points raised in the question through the medium of question and answer in this House, but all these questions are being carefully considered, and the assumption that an effective force of Militia must be organised, if the regular force now in the island is to be maintained, is correct.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Has not the right hon. Gentleman had a copy of the draft answer of the States of Jersey—a very long document, printed about four months ago?

MR. BRODRICK'S reply was inaudible.

The Chinese Regiment.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any final decision has yet been come to in reference to the disbandment, or to the increase above the numbers named in the Estimate, of the Chinese regiment.

MR. BRODRICK: It has recently been decided to retain the Chinese regiment, to consist of four companies, with a total strength of about 400 men.

Gravesend Barracks.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state, in view of the recent case of death by suffocation through overcrowding in Gravesend Barracks, to which his attention has been drawn by the coroner's jury, what steps he intends to take.

MR. BRODRICK: The matter has been inquired into, and steps were immediately taken to stop the overcrowding referred to. The causes of the overcrowding are being made the subject of careful inquiry.

Naval Manœuvres.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether a Report can be presented to Parliament on such portions of the recent combined operations of the Mediterranean and Channel Squadrons as can be made public without prejudice to the public interests.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The reports of the combined manœuvres have not yet been fully considered by the Board of Admiralty, but when they have been so considered, there is no objection to laying before Parliament a report giving an account of the general scope and results of the manœuvres.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: It will be done by the Admiralty?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, Sir.

Indian Currency—Effect of Closing the Mints—Suggested Inquiry.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is now prepared to suggest to the Indian Government the advisability of instituting an inquiry as to the effect of the closing of the mints to the free coinage of silver, since the attainment of stability at sixteen pence per rupee, upon the economic condition of India generally.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I am not of opinion that there is any sufficient reason for instituting a special inquiry, which would of necessity be elaborate, into the economic effects either of the closing of the Indian Mints in 1893 or of the stability of exchange which that measure was intended to produce and has produced. Those effects, so far as I am able to judge of them, appear to me to be on the whole eminently satisfactory.

Venezuela—Anglo-German Naval Action—Present Position.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he proposes to give any information to the House as to the grounds upon which an attack has been made by the British fleet on the fleet of the Government of Venezuela; and if Papers will be laid upon the Table giving details, and when.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): These Papers are now to be had at the Vote Office.

MR. SCHWANN: Does not the right hon. Gentleman propose to give us a definite opportunity before the prorogation of discussing the matter?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is not the question.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich): May I ask my right hon. friend, as the British and German Governments are acting together with regard to Venezuela, whether the British Government are responsible in any way for any act the German Government may think it right to take; and whether the British Government are responsible in any way for the sinking of the Venezuelan vessels?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is a question entirely for the German Government, and not for us.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): Is there any foundation for the suggestion which has appeared in the morning papers, on the authority of a Reuter's dispatch, to the effect that the British Admiral was responsible for the sinking of the captured Venezuelan ships. Is the noble Lord in a position to give us any further information on the subject?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The answer to the question is in the negative. The operations against the Venezuelan ships were undertaken in some cases by the British naval authorities and in the remainder by the German. We are informed that the German Commodore found it necessary to sink two gunboats.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What is the comparative value of the German claims on Venezuela and of the gunboats which have been sunk?

[No answer was returned.]

Cuba and the United States—Reciprocity Treaty.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state what is the present state of the negotiations between Cuba and the United States for a Reciprocity Treaty; whether His Majesty's Government have taken any, and what, steps for the protection of British interests and the maintenance of their right to most-favoured nation treatment in Cuba; and with what result.

*LORD CRANBORNE: Negotiations are proceeding at Havana for the conclusion of a Reciprocity Treaty between Cuba and the United States, and have nearly reached their final stage. Representations have been made at Washington with regard to British commercial interests in Cuba. No answer has yet been received.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it will be competent for the German or Austrian Government, under the terms of the Brussels Convention, to pay the whole of the rail and shipping freights on sugar exported to the United States, and what relation such payment would bear to the money bounties now paid by these Governments.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Under the Brussels Convention, should any question arise as to whether one of the contracting Powers were, by some course of action such as that referred to in the question, conferring an indirect bounty on the export of sugar, such a question would be referred to the International Commission for consideration and report. I cannot anticipate the decision of the Commission on a case which has not arisen.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will the decision of this Commission not be absolutely final and without appeal?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, I rather think it would on this point.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, have the present law officers of the Crown given to His Majesty's Government advice relative to the effect of the Brussels Sugar Convention on the most-favoured nation Clause in existing commercial treaties contrary to that given by the law officers of the Crown in 1880; and if so, is the present advice that of all the law officers of the Crown, including the Lord Chancellor, Mr. Attorney General, and Mr. Solicitor General, or is it the advice of one only of them.

The HON. MEMBER also had the following Question on the Paper: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact, recently ascertained upon further investigation by His Majesty's Government, that the highest legal authority, the law officers of the Crown, advised His Majesty's Government in 1880 that to impose a countervailing duty in order to neutralise a foreign bounty on sugar would be contrary to the most-favoured-nation Clause in existing commercial treaties, His Majesty's Government now propose to ratify and and act upon the Brussels Sugar Convention, and thus to violate those treaties; if not, do they propose to give notice of the termination of those treaties; is he aware that such treaties exist between Great Britain and twenty-one foreign States, not being signatories of the Convention, including Russia and the United States; and what course do His Majesty's Government propose to take in the event of these countries adhering to the view expressed by the British law officers of the Crown in 1880, and withdrawing from British produce and manufactures the advantages of the most-favoured nation Clause.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps I may be allowed to answer both Questions together. His Majesty's Government are advised that there is nothing in the terms of the Sugar Convention inconsistent with the most-favoured-nation Clause that is in the contrary sense to the advice which it appears was given in 1880. My hon. friend has asked for details as to the particular law officers concerned in giving the advice, and, although there would be no objection on the present occasion to giving the advice, I think it would be a very bad precedent, which I ought not to set. As my hon. friend will have perceived from that answer, we are not of opinion that the Sugar Convention violates the most-favoured-nation articles in the existing treaties. This opinion is shared, so far as we are aware, by every non-signatory Power except Russia; and Russia herself was a signatory to the convention of 1880, which contained a penal Clause.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Has any communication been received from any of the twenty-one countries concerned, or any inquiry made to ascertain their opinions?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot answer my hon. friend's Question offhand. But, of course, this matter has been long before the international public of all these countries; and, if there had been any objection of the kind my hon. friend supposes I am sure we would have been made aware of it.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): May I ask whether there will be any objection to the presentation to the House of all the correspondence which has passed with foreign nations on the subject of the interpretation of the Convention, particularly on this point?

MR. BALFOUR: I am not aware that there has been any correspondence on this point, because it is a point which, I believe, is a matter of common agreement, not requiring correspondence. But, if the right hon. Gentleman will put down a Question on the subject, he will receive an answer.

MR. BRYCE: With a view to clearing up the point, may I ask, if there has been no correspondence, by what means is the right hon. Gentleman able to state his belief as to the agreement of the other nations?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is obviously a Question which cannot be answered without full notice. But take the case of the United States. We know full well that the United States has vehemently protested against the view of my hon. friend, not in relation to this Convention, but in relation to other international transactions.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman give the House the despatch from Russia, in which Russia takes the view which was given by the law officers in 1880 and by my humble self now?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: That point will be answered when the Question is put on the Paper by my hon. friend or the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

British West Indian Sugar Exports.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what proportion of the total sugar exports from the West Indies is sold in the United States; whether the sugar so sold is now protected from European competition by the American countervailing duties; and whether those duties will cease if the Brussels Convention comes into operation.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E., for Mr. J. Chamberlain): Of the total sugar exported from the British West Indian Colonies in the year 1901–2 roughly speaking about three-fourths went to the United States. The European State bounties are now countervailed in the United States, and if both the countervailing duties and the European state bounties are removed the position will be as at present, except that the Cartel bounties which are not countervailed will disappear also, to the advantage of the West Indian sugar producers.

Jamaica Sugar Exports.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what is the relative value of the sugar exports from Jamaica as compared with the total exports.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: For the year ending the 31st of March last the value of the sugar exported was about 7 per cent. of the total value of the exports.

Village Homes for Poor Law Children.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will grant a Return showing the inclusive cost per head per annum (both establishment and maintenance charges) of the children in each of the village communities or grouped cottage homes for Poor Law children.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): I shall be happy to grant a Return on this subject if the hon. Member will move for it in the form which I have suggested to him.

Petroleum Tests.

Mr. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state on what basis the Home Office experts assume that 27 degrees should be deducted from the 110 degrees fire-point Tagliabue test of petroleum in Pennsylvania, so as to make it equivalent to the 73 degrees Fahrenheit Abel close test employed in these countries.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): There is some mistake in the figures given in the hon. Member's Question. In particular, 63 degrees, not 73, was the figure given for Pennsylvania in the previous answer to which he refers. This statement of the approximate equivalent (according to the English Abel close test) for the results shown by the Tagliabue open test was based on a collation of statements of responsible officials in the United States who use the latter test.

St. John's School, Sutton-on-Plym.

Mr. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, with respect to the alleged punishment of a girl for objecting to bow to an image of the Virgin Mary, while attending St. John's Schools, Sutton-on-Plym, Plymouth, whether, having regard to the fresh representations that have been made to the Board of Education, he will now make any statement, or proposes to take any further action in the matter.

*The SECRETARY of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir William Anson, Oxford University): A fresh set of statutory declarations has been sent to me by the hon. Member. The original declarations related to a time when a life-sized image of the Virgin stood in the church referred to (St. John's Church, Sutton-on-Plym). The later declarations, made by the same persons as the earlier, state that the date given in the earlier was erroneous, as the girl was not attending the St. John's School at that date. The later declarations relate to a period nineteen months before the image was even placed in the church. I am informed that on the altar screen is a group representing the Crucifixion, and that one figure in this group represents the Virgin; but it does not appear that this figure has been an object of worship, or that it could be separately worshipped, being one of a group; and I am informed that the words used in the declarations "bow one by one as we passed this image" would, from the position of this figure, be totally inapplicable. Having regard to these apparent inconsistencies in a story relating to a period two and a half years ago, supported only by declarations, of which the later set admittedly contradicts the earlier, the Board of Education do not propose to make further inquiry into the case.

Mr. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: Arising out of that answer, may I ask whether the father of the girl, or the girl herself, has withdrawn anything from the original statement except the date; also whether among the fresh representations he has received there is one from another girl who alleged that she was caned in the same school for the same offence.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON: The alteration of the date puts the incident back to a time when there was no image of the sort described in the first declaration. As regards the other case, it relates to a period more than three years ago.

Mr. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: Are there two images in the church?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The matter cannot be debated.

Maryborough Assizes — Kilbride Trial—Crown Challenges of Jurors.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he can state how many Roman Catholic jurors were ordered by the Crown to stand aside at the trial, on Tuesday last, of Mr. Denis Kilbride, on a charge of inciting to murder, at the winter assizes held in Maryborough; how many Roman Catholics were on the jury that convicted in this case; and what were the instructions given to the Crown Solicitor as to challenging of the jurors on this occasion.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): I have no definite official information which would enable me to reply to the first and second queries contained in this Question, since, as directed by the circular of February, 1894, no inquiry is made into the religions of jurors, no record kept of their religious opinions, and no action taken by the Crown in reference to jurors on account of them. The Crown Solicitor, however, reports to me that he set aside with equal impartiality every juror who, from prejudice either for or against the prisoner, he had reason to believe would not have given a fair and impartial verdict on the evidence, and further that he has since been informed and believes that of the 221 jurors on the panel one-fifth were Protestants and four-fifths Roman Catholics, while out of the forty-six jurors ordered to stand aside over one-fourth, namely twelve, were Protestants. As to the last query, no instructions other than those contained in the above circular were given to the Crown Solicitor.

Mr. TULLY: What is the name of the Crown Solicitor for this county?

Mr. ATKINSON: Dr. Todd.

Mr. TULLY: Is he a resident of the county?

Mr. ATKINSON: No.

United Irish League Officials Occupying Evicted Farms and Grazing Lands.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of

Ireland whether he will state how many prosecutions under the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, have taken place in the parishes where 184 officers of branches of the United Irish League are in occupation of evicted farms and eleven months grazing lands; and what has been the result of these prosecutions.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I have already stated that, so far as I could discover, no such proceedings have been instituted against the officials mentioned. The Papers before me do not contain the further information now desired, and I do not think its importance could be commensurate with the trouble involved in procuring it.

MR. TULLY: Will the right hon. Gentleman give a Return setting forth their names and addresses?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir.

Forestry in Ireland.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received any representation from the Irish Forestry Society as to the necessity of tree planting in two and a half million acres of waste land in Ireland; and whether he can state what steps he proposes to take by means of legislation, or otherwise, in this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Department has received no recent representations from the Society on the subject, and does not propose to take any steps in this direction pending the issue of the Report of the Departmental Committee on British Forestry. It has, however, made arrangements to afford expert advice to persons desiring to improve or extend their woodlands.

Irish Education Grant.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is now in a position to state when the Commissioners of National Education intend paying the capitation grant for the present year.

MR. WYNDHAM: The payment of the residual capitation grant for the present year, to which the hon. Member presumably refers, will be made in April next.

Ballinrobe Estate.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what terms the Congested Districts Board have purchased from the Earl of Lucan his Ballinrobe estate; what is the total amount of the purchase, and how many years purchase does it represent on the gross and net rentals respectively.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Board has not purchased, and is not negotiating for the purchase of this estate.

MR. TULLY: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire why officials of the Congested Districts Board set these rumours afloat?

MR. WYNDHAM: They are not circulated by the officials of the Board.

Postal Telegraph Clerks Association—Londonderry Secretary.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the local Secretary to the Postal Telegraph Clerks Association, at Londonderry, is to be removed from the postal to the telegraph department after the Christmas pressure for closer supervision, and is at present under surveillance by instruction of the postmaster; and will he say whether this action has his sanction.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No such arrangement is contemplated. It is not the case that the officer in question has been placed under special surveillance.

Irish Department of Agriculture—Itinerant Instructions.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what are the regulations adopted by the Department of Agriculture as to the selection of itinerant instructors recommended for appointment to the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committees established in connection with the various

County Councils; what are the tests and examinations to which these instructors are subjected; and who recommends the candidates to be placed on the lists framed by the Department of Agriculture.

MR. WYNDHAM: The annual Report of the Department for 1901–2 contains much information on the several matters referred to in this question. The Report will be laid on the Table today. I have forwarded a copy to the hon. Member, and if, after perusing it, he desires any further information on the subject I shall be glad to give it to him.

Commissioners of Woods and Forests and Voluntary Schools.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the grants at present paid by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests towards the maintenance of various voluntary schools throughout the country will be continued if the Education Bill comes into operation; what the amount of those grants is at present, and among how many schools it is distributed; and whether any other National Department contributes in the same manner to voluntary schools at present.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The question of continuing these grants is one which will have to be considered as soon as the Education Bill becomes law. With regard to the last part of the hon. Gentleman's Question, I have no information to enable me to fully answer it, but so far as the Commissioners of Woods and Forests are concerned, it appears that they make grants to 104 schools, the total amount distributed in 1901-02 having been £1,110.

Education Bill—Lords' Amendments.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I should like to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Lords' Amendments to the Education Bill will be distributed tonight, otherwise, it will not be very convenient to go on with them tomorrow.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not like to answer the question off-hand, without having consulted the authorities responsible for the printing. I see a difficulty in carrying out the hon. Gentleman's view, because I believe the Lords have power, which they often exercise, to amend a Bill on its Third Reading.

Government Departments and Employment of Discharged Soldiers.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government will take steps to secure further employment of Reserve and discharged soldiers of good character in public departments.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: May I inquire whether, if the right hon. Gentleman gives the undertaking asked for in the Question, steps will be taken to prevent civilians of good character being displaced to make room for them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Question of the hon. Member opposite is outside my cognisance. With regard to the Question of my hon. friend, as he is aware, the policy which he advocates is one which has the sympathy of the Government, and which we should be glad to further.

MAJOR RASCH: Will the right hon. Gentleman give direct instructions to the permanent officials in this direction?

[No answer was returned.]

VENEZUELA—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MR. SCHWANN: As I understand the First Lord of the Treasury does not propose to give the House an opportunity for discussing the situation in Venezuela before the prorogation, I desire to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "the present state of our relations with the Republic of Venezuela."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not at all object.

The pleasure of the House having been signified, the Motion stood over until the Evening Sitting, this day.

UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

(2.40.) MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea, District) said that in the course of the discussion on this subject a few days ago, he drew a comparison between the Beira and the Uganda undertakings, and the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in the course of his reply, made a very strong statement. He said, in fact, that the Beira Railway was one of the worst constructed in Africa, and had had to be relaid. He would like to know what authority the noble Lord had for making that statement, and whether the noble Lord had seen the letter in *The Times* this morning from the contractors of the Beira Railway, pointing out that the statement of the noble Lord was entirely inaccurate, inasmuch as the railway was built under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the engineers of the company, who were Sir George Bruce, Sir Douglas Fox—both past presidents of the Institute of Civil Engineers —and Sir Charles Metcalfe, all of them engineers of the highest English standing. The line was relaid in consequence of the necessity of altering the original gauge so as to have the same gauge right through from Cape Town to Beira. He would like further to ask the noble Lord whether the account also given by Messrs. Pauling in *The Times* as to their negotiations with the Foreign Office was correct, and if so what were the reasons given by the Foreign Office for undertaking the works themselves when so advantageous an offer had been made by these contractors ?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester) said that although the hon. Member had not given him any notice, he would do his best to answer his Question. With regard to the Beira Railway, it was originally a 2ft. railway and was constructed on a very cheap basis. All the bridges, with one exception, were of wood. The hon. and learned Gentleman would know that the two most important things in working a railway were the diameter of the curves and the steepness of the inclines. In both these respects the Beira Railway was a far greater sinner than the Uganda Railway; and when the Beira Railway came to be tried, and heavy burdens were thrown upon it, the difficulties were found to be insuperable, and the whole line had to be reconstructed on the 3ft. 6in. gauge. When that reconstruction was completed, the railway had cost between £7,000 and £8,000 a mile. The line ran through far easier country than that traversed by the Uganda Railway; it was only 220 miles long, and never reached a higher point than 3,000ft. above the sea level. In the circumstances he did not think that the difference between £7,500 and £9,500 a mile in the cost of the two lines was at all surprising. It certainly did not reflect badly on the Uganda Railway. He had no desire to run down the Beira Railway, and if anything he said the other night was thought excessive he gladly withdrew it. He still maintained, however, that the Beira Railway was not an example to be quoted in condemnation of the Uganda Railway, especially when the much more difficult country and the much greater length of the line were considered.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said that the noble Lord had not dealt with the point raised by Messrs. Pauling & Co. in their letter to *The Times.* They stated that they made an offer to Lord Kimberley in April, 1895, to construct and work this line on certain conditions for £2,500,000. Lord Kimberley's Government soon after went out of office, and they renewed the offer to Lord Salisbury's Government, but they never received any reply to that offer. The Government had gone on and made the line themselves at a cost to the country of £5,500,000, or £3,000,000 more than the amount for which Messrs. Pauling offered to do the job. He noticed that that was the same firm of contractors whose work on the Beira Railway was made the subject of comment by the noble Lord. It seemed to him to be very singular. The firm had certainly constructed some railways in Donegal very well indeed.

—and that was a difficult country—and he could not see why they should not be entitled to receive a courteous answer to their offer. Five millions was being spent on this railway, and another five millions on a colonial cable. Ten millions of the taxpayers' money was being spent on colonials who paid no taxes, while the people who had to pay through the nose—especially in Ireland—were not reaping a shilling's worth of benefit from the outlay.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) asked the noble Lord whether he could inform the House as to the amount of remuneration given to the Crown Agents, and other permanent officials, who had had the carrying out of the construction of the railway, and also what amount of remuneration would have been received by Government officials had the work of constructing the railway been entrusted to private contractors.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked for further information with regard to figures in the estimates. When he brought this matter up last time the noble Lord rather scolded him, and certainly failed to give him any satisfaction by promising to do his best to stop this scandalous waste of money. The amount put down for contingencies was £252,000, and it now appeared that £222,000 had been saved under that head. He wished to know, therefore, why an estimate for £252,000 was laid. Then there was an item of £484,000 for general charges. That was an increase of £200,000. How was it that such a vast sum was required for services which could only be described as general? Surely now that the line was approaching completion they ought not to have such vague estimates laid before them. Rolling stock up to the present appeared to have cost £400,000, and now £128,000 more was to be spent. That seemed a huge amount for a railway which would have so very little traffic to cope with. But the worst item of all was that for station buildings. They had already cost £370,000, and now a further sum of £200,000 was asked for, or £570,000 in all. That seemed to him a most astounding and extravagant amount. Surely the stations were not to be on the same pattern as Charing Cross or Victoria. He would ask the noble Lord to endeavour to explain these items and to give the Committee some assurance that efforts would be made, even at this late stage, to secure economy in this vast expenditure.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, N.R., Cleveland) said it would be more satisfactory if the noble Lord would give the Committee the detailed accounts of the expenditure. The accounts already laid merely gave the large totals of the money spent under five or six heads.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) suggested that the amount of remuneration paid to the Crown Agents for the Colonies might be shown as a separate item. These gentlemen were borrowed from the Colonial Office for the purpose of superintending the construction of the line, and it appeared that for every penny spent on this railway they received 1 per cent., which amount went to form a pension fund for themselves. That fund now amounted to something like £320,000. Would the noble Lord be kind enough to state how much of the excess was due to this 1 per cent?

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) trusted that the noble Lord the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs would not hesitate to supply the information asked. It was obvious that in a case such as this, where there had been much extravagant waste, the House should be put in possession of all possible information. He also hoped the noble Lord would reply to the question of the hon. Member for the Swansea District with regard to the statement of the well-known contractors, Messrs. Pauling and Co., that they tendered for the work of this railway, and that had their offer been accepted the railway would have been made for about half what it had actually cost. It would be remembered that when the question was last debated the noble Lord put forward the excuse for the Foreign Office doing the work that it was improbable any contractors would have undertaken it. If this firm did offer, then the noble Lord must have been misinformed, and some explanation ought to be forthcoming.

It would have been the greatest possible advantage to have had a private firm undertaking this work who had had experience of making a railway under similar conditions. They ought to have an explanation given upon this question. With regard to the Beira Railway, he had two or three remarks to make upon what the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs had said. He himself had travelled upon the Beira Railway when it was a two-foot line. It was quite true that the curves were sharp, but it should be remembered that the narrower the gauge the sharper they might make the curves. Therefore the comparison made between the Uganda and the Beira Railways was not a satisfactory one. On all the famous narrow-gauge railways it was well known what extraordinarily sharp curves were made with perfect safety owing to the narrow gauge of the line. The Beira Railway was made under circumstances of unusual haste and urgency, and it might easily have cost a little more than would otherwise have been necessary owing to the fact that it had to be made in such exceptional haste because it ran through one of the deadliest regions in the world. For about ninety miles from Beira up to the sea was a malarious region in which half the Europeans engaged in the line either died or suffered from fever during the construction of the line through that part, and the death rate there was something like 30 or 40 per cent. Therefore, it was necessary to make this railway with exceptional haste. No such haste was necessary in the case of the Uganda line, and consequently a comparison with the Beira Railway was not quite a fair one. The noble Lord had stated that the Beira line was constructed through an easier country, but he found that the part near the coast in the case of the Uganda Railway was, according to the best information he had been able to collect, a great deal easier than the coast section of the Beira line, which was subject to floods which put the whole country under water for thirty or forty miles on each side of the line, and consequently the difficulty of making that line through this country whilst it was under water was enormous. Therefore it was necessary to make a bend for the line at great cost, and the question of the bridges presented extraordinary difficulty, and that was a far more costly work in the case of the Beira than the Uganda line. Speaking generally, there was no comparison between the extreme difficulty of that country and the difficulties encountered in Uganda. The comparison which the noble Lord drew was not a fair one, and these facts had to be borne in mind in estimating the amount of money they had spent upon the Uganda Railway. He did not wish to repeat the criticisms offered the other day, but he thought it was necessary that justice should be done to the Beira line.

*(3.10.) LORD CRANBORNE: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen has referred to the question of the Beira line. Let me say that he is quite misinformed if he thinks there was no urgency in regard to the making of the Uganda Railway. The right hon. Gentleman having said before that there was no urgency in respect of the Uganda Railway, I was in a position to reply to him and explain in great detail why there was great urgency, and I did so.

MR. BRYCE said he did not say there was no urgency, but he drew a distinction in this respect between the Uganda and the Beira lines. In the case of the Beira line the climate was very unhealthy, and the difficulties were increased by floods.

*LORD CRANBORNE: Apparently, the right hon. Gentleman does not know the reasons of the urgency of the Uganda Railway, because he did not hear the remainder of the debate which he initiated. I think I have some reason to criticise his reference to the question of urgency, although I dealt with the matter rather fully on the last occasion. The hon. and learned Member for Swansea has compared the cost of the Uganda Railway with that of the Beira line, and he compared them unfavourably to the former. Upon inquiry, I find that the Beira line cost £7,500 per mile when it was placed upon a broad gauge and made into a satisfactory railway. I still maintain the opinion that it is not a well-constructed line, and in order to make it into a well-constructed line, £7,500 per mile had to be spent upon it. That £7,500 per mile is in respect of a line which was very much easier to construct than in Uganda. When you have to go up to 8,000 feet in the construction of a railway it must be more expensive than going up to 3,000 feet. The right hon. Gentleman did not do justice to the length of the railway in Uganda, for there is an enormous difference. In Uganda there is extra haulage, and the expenditure increases as you go along with the line, and when you come to very steep hills, as in the case of Uganda, the cost of haulage becomes enormous. The first 230 miles of the Uganda line is all that can be compared with the Beira railway, and it has not cost £7,500 per mile. In Uganda, when you get far away from the coast and have to go to a height of 8,000 feet and make viaducts and bridges which the circumstances of the country necessitate, then you find a very expensive cost. But leaving aside all points of cost, and admitting for argument's sake that I am wrong in my criticism of the Beira line, I do not admit that much can be said against the Uganda Railway by comparing its total cost with the Beira line.

The hon. Gentleman opposite asks me about the contractor, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen said that a firm of contractors offered to build the line for £2,500,000, and, therefore, we might have had the railway at that price. But that does not follow at all. Has the right hon. Gentleman always found that contractors do a job at the price they offer? Is that his experience? No man finds that to be the case. The usual result is that the contractor charges a great deal more. I told the Committee when I first introduced this Bill that it was impossible to make the Uganda Railway without coolie labour. That labour would most certainly have had to be found by the contractor. It was not myself alone who said that you could not have made this railway without coolie labour. The Leader of the Opposition had said so upon a former occasion, and if the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Berwick did not actually say so, he used language which very nearly came to that point. If it was necessary to have coolie labour, as I say it was necessary, what would the contractors have done? Would they have had coolie labour? Certainly not, because the Government would not have allowed them to have coolie labour. It is only as a considerable favour that the Government of India allow us to have coolie labour, and it is only permitted to the British Government. It is, therefore, highly probable that they would never have consented to allow coolie labour to a contractor. I do not think the right hon. Gentleman or the hon. and learned Member has done justice to the case. One of the conditions laid down by the contractor was that there was to be a certain guarantee of interest bearing all the loss on working expenses, and on the top of that we were to grant not only £2,500,000, but also certain plots of land.

MR. T. M. HEALY: They were not yours, so they would have cost you nothing.

*LORD CRANBORNE: Had we done this we should very likely have been worse off. The hon. Member for Kilmarnock has asked me about the Crown Agents, but that question was very carefully discussed by the House of Commons in 1900, and then my right hon. friend the Member for Bristol, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, explained that though the remuneration of the Crown Agents came out of the fees, yet it was a fixed remuneration. That was the explanation then given. The salaries were fixed by the Colonial Office, and they were found out of the fees. The hon. Member asks me to give him the total amount paid. As I understand it, the Crown Agents are paid salaries like myself and any other member of the Government, and the fact that they transact the business of the Uganda Railway as well as the work of the Colonial Office makes no difference ito their remuneration. That is what I understand is the case. The hon. Member for West Islington asks me if I will give a pledge that economy will be studied in the future. It is really not necessary to ask us if we will study the interests of economy in the future, for of course we will. I do not suppose that the hon. Gentleman thinks it is a particularly pleasant thing for me to come down here and ask for this £600,000 on the top of everything else that has been granted for the Uganda Railway. That is not at all the wish of the Government, and I should be very glad indeed if the line could be conducted more economically. I will give the assurance that we shall do our utmost to study economy in the matter of the Uganda Railway in the future. The hon. Gentleman has put several questions on the items themselves which I will endeavour to answer. First of all, as to station buildings. The original estimate, found in the first part of the Table, was made on the mileage rate of the first 270 miles. That was an inaccurate mileage rate, because, as the line went on, partly owing to physical conditions, the nature of the ground, and so forth, the mileage rate increased so that the rate for the first 270 miles was erroneous when taken as an estimate for the latter part of the line. A great many of these buildings are calculated at so much a mile in the case of English railways, and the calculation is found to work out accurately.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Is galvanised iron calculated at so much a mile?

*LORD CRANBORNE: Then there were certain head-quarters works and a staff at Nairobi. I told the Committee quite candidly when introducing the Bill that certain things had been omitted from the original estimate which ought to have been included. This is certainly a thing which ought to have been in the original estimate, but it was not, and therefore has to be made good now. I have already explained to the House that the climate was disappointing, and, as is well-known, all building operations are much more difficult when the weather is very bad. Then there is the question of the water supply. That all comes into the item "station buildings, etc." The water supply is a difficulty on the Uganda railway because we have not found sources of water to supply the railway at sufficiently frequent intervals. In such cases the water to replenish the reservoirs has to be carried from one place to another on water trains. That is a very expensive matter, but as our investigations have proceeded and we have found more sources of water, we have been very glad to do away with this carriage of water by establishing a water supply. That has at once transferred the cost from annual to capital expenditure. The carriage of water increases the annual, but not the capital cost, whereas the establishment of a water supply increases the capital expenditure, but effects a great economy on the whole enterprise. That has happened in one or two cases, and we gladly ask the House for more money on that account, because it is economical in the long run. The fact that the railway was not made so quickly as we had hoped it would be has rendered it necessary to make more substantial the temporary buildings that were used, and that has increased the amount of that item. As to the rolling stock, there was an under-estimate of £50,000 in the first instance, made, not by the engineer in South Africa, but by our responsible advisers at home, based on inquiries as to the cost of works and so forth in England. Then there is the question of safety chains and automatic brakes. Hon. Gentlemen may criticise such expenditure on the Uganda Railway, but it is really an economy, because we find that the cost of the breakages which these automatic brakes and safety chains would have prevented would have gone a long way towards meeting the extra cost if they had been provided in the first instance. The reason for the reduction under the head of "contingencies" is that a large part of the money asked for in 1899-1900 was absorbed by items which are not found in the second column of the table otherwise I should have had to ask for a larger sum even than £600,000. The "general charges" are much higher, chiefly because of the mistaken estimate and the time it has taken to build the railway. "General charges" includes wages, and so on, of the hands employed, and the longer the railway is in the building the heavier the general charges must be. The miscalculation of assuming that the latter portion of the line would cost the same as the earlier part applies also to the general charges.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: What about the detailed accounts?

*LORD CRANBORNE: They have never before been supplied in connection with the Uganda Railway. The House did not ask for them in 1900, and, in any case, they could not be presented before this Bill becomes an Act of Parliament. I hope it will not be necessary for me to ask for any more money by way of loan for this railway. If there is any other demand on behalf of capital expenditure it will be found in the ordinary Estimates, and hon. Gentlemen will have an opportunity of cross-examining me, or whoever holds my place, in Committee of Supply.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): The noble Lord has intimated that in its policy for the future the Foreign Office will take to heart the lessons which the experience of the Uganda Railway has taught them, but he did not seem to realise the lesson which I think the Foreign Office ought to have learnt—a lesson which, I am sure, the House of Commons has learnt, and will insist on in the future, viz., that there shall be no more railways constructed by amateur departments in public offices. The initial mistake, the blunder that has characterised the whole of these proceedings and is responsible to a large extent for this extravagance, is the unwise and injudicious plan of attempting to construct a railway in South Africa by a body of gentlemen sitting in London, a Departmental Committee of the Foreign Office with certain other persons associated with them. I do not know whether the noble Lord is aware that the Foreign Office were warned seven years ago against taking this step. They were warned that if they constructed the railway themselves they would have to pay 40s. for every sovereign's worth of material, skill, and labour, as compared with the cost if done by experienced and responsible contractors. This is not the first railway that has been made in Africa, but all the others have been constructed by contractors who had experience of the country, who knew the labour difficulties, the cost of materials and—sometimes, no doubt, from experience—the possible loss. These contractors, while perhaps making a good contract for themselves, would also have saved the public funds a very large sum of money.

With reference to the reply of the noble Lord, let me take first his statement as to the Crown Agents. I remember the reply given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I cannot say that that reply, to my mind, was satisfactory, nor is that of the noble Lord. What does it really mean? That one Department of the Government borrows from another Department certain salaried servants, whose salaries are paid continuously and charged on the Department to which they properly belong. As a simple matter of fact, the borrowing Department ought to pay its proportion of the salaries for the time during which the servants are in its employ. But that is not done here. There is, I am told, a fixed percentage charged on all expenditure on material used. The noble Lord did not tell us where that went to. It is all charged against this account, but into what other account does it come? It is not a relief, as it would be under ordinary circumstances, to the Colonial Vote; that Vote is not reduced by a single penny. The explanation is that it goes to a sort of pension fund, out of which the Crown Agents are remunerated. I have no fault to find with Crown Agents receiving pensions, but that is not the proper way in which to provide them. If Crown Agents are entitled to pensions, they should be voted by this House, as is done in the case of other branches of the Civil Service. But the policy of Government servants governing expenditure, a percentage of which is either immediately or later to go into their own pockets, is a most dangerous one to pursue, and if these accounts were overhauled, and the whole thing shown on the one side and the other, I think that would be the opinion of the House of Commons also.

With reference to contingencies, an hon. friend of mine in 1900 pointed out the extraordinary and unnecessary extravagance that had been imposed on the country by this mode of constructing the railway. I do not blame the noble Lord for that; he is in no way responsible for it; he has really come into this *damnosa hereditas*. He is in no way to blame, and he rather resents some of the criticisms that are made. I have no doubt that, if he could speak out as frankly as he used from below the Gangway, no one would denounce the whole transaction in stronger terms than the noble Lord. But what we must press the noble Lord for, and in this he is responsible, is the detailed accounts He says he is not going to ask for any more money——

*LORD CRANBORNE: I said I hoped not.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: We hope so too. But that is no answer to our request for information as to how the money has been spent. It would be no answer on any ordinary Vote in Supply for the Minister in charge to say it was a closed transaction, and that he would give no details of the expenditure because he was not going to ask for any more. The Secretary to the Treasury has just come in, so I will put to him a question which he is perhaps better able to answer than the noble Lord. How are these accounts going to be dealt with by the Comptroller and Auditor General? I remember well when I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee some very extraordinary revelations being made before the members of the Committee of the way in which materials and stores were thrown away in one of the West African matters in which the Government were interested. In that case there were a great many detailed accounts supplied, and many of them were vigorously attacked by the Treasury itself. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury is now in his place, and I think that we should have an assurance from him that the Treasury will so vigorously audit these accounts that when the Auditor General comes to deal with them he will have an opportunity to deal with these large items over which the right hon. Gentleman has passed so rapidly, without giving the House any further information than they had before. I agree with my hon. friend who said that it is no use crying over spilt milk. I have no fault to find with the construction of the railway, but I think that every blunder that could have been made in the construction of a railway has been made in the construction of this railway. Why did not the right hon. Gentleman adopt the principle upon which all the great railways of America and Canada were built, of giving sections of land to the contractors who built them?

*LORD CRANBORNE said he did not object to that mode of paying the contractors, but when the cost came to be considered that item would have to be reckoned in the account.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: Half the amount of money which has been paid for this railway would have been saved if that principle had been adopted, and it would have been worth the while of the Government, even if they had only saved a million by it. I press upon the right hon. Gentleman this fact—that the House of Commons have a right to ask, and do ask, for a detailed account of how this money has been spent in plant, material, stations, rolling stock, contingencies, and commissions.

(3.38.) MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick): I quite agree with the right hon. Gentleman who has just spoken that it is expedient that railways should, so far as is possible, be built by contract rather than under the control of a Government Department, but I think the right hon. Gentleman opposite does not quite appreciate the circumstances here, and seems to be basing himself too much on the letter of the contractors this morning when he says that, if the railway had been built by contract instead of by a Foreign Office Committee, they would have had it done for £2,500,000 instead of £5,000,000. But I should like to know what sort of a railway they would have built for £2,500,000—what would have been the gradients, the curves, and the rails. And I should also like to know whether they, or any other contractors, would have bound themselves to a price at that time. No man in his senses would or could have done so. My criticism of the railway is that the Government began to build it before they had any detailed survey or estimate. They had the excellent field survey of Major Macdonald, but no detailed survey or estimates. If the contractors had been let in on that footing, it is perfectly certain that it would have cost so much as it has under the present circumstances. Therefore my criticism of the building of this railway goes back further, and I regret that the Government did not have a more adequate survey of the line and get better estimates before they began to build it, because then it would have been possible to put something into the hands of the contractors and have saved something for the country. The right hon. Gentleman criticised the Crown Agents and the principle on which they are paid. Crown Agents have orders for our different colonies in all parts of the world, and although it is true that a percentage is charged upon all the purchases they make, the system on which they are paid is quite different to that which the right hon. Gentleman suggests. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that the Crown Agents are paid by those percentages, but although they are paid out of them they receive a fixed salary.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton said the initial mistake of the Government was in attempting to construct a railway in Africa by a Committee sitting in London, instead of giving it over to a contractor. I agree that that was a very great mistake, but it was not the initial mistake. The initial mistake, in my opinion, was in going to Uganda at all. And for that mistake I would remind the right hon. Gentleman the responsibility rests entirely upon Lord Rosebery, who was the late and is the present Leader of the right hon. Gentlemen. The noble Lord thinks with regard to this matter it is a sufficient answer to come down here and say that there was a mistake in this, that, and the other, but if that was a sufficient answer it was not necessary to come down and tell the House that. Everybody knows there were mistakes in the estimates, but what we want to discover is not where those mistakes are, but who is responsible for the estimates and how the mistakes were made. One suggested explanatlon of the difference in the estimates was the distance of the railhead from the coast and the cost of getting the materials up to the railhead, but the engineers who had the conduct of this railway must have taken that into account. The noble Lord seems to me to have been very easily hoodwinked by the engineers in his employ, because they appeared to have persuaded him that they never took this into consideration. The cost of the material and the carriage of the material to the railhead must have been taken into consideration in the case of Uganda just as it would be in the case of an English railway or any other. The cost of building ten miles of railway in Sutherlandshire may not be much more than the cost of building ten miles in Essex, but the cost of the material necessary and its carriage is always taken into consideration. We are faced with these two facts. First of all we were told that the country was fully surveyed before the railway was made.

*LORD CRANBORNE: No, no.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: We paid, at all events, enormous sums for the survey.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I explained that the survey was not complete.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I remember perfectly well that in the last year of the late Conservative Government large sums were voted by this House for surveying the country where this line has been made.

*LORD CRANBORNE: It is hardly fair on the part of the hon. Gentleman, who, no doubt for very proper reasons, has not been able to be present during the debates on this question, to come down and discuss it in this way. I have already explained to the House that the estimates and surveys were not complete in 1900 and 1901, and I have explained the details.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I am not speaking of the £600,000 now asked for, but of the first Resolution moved in the House when the Government first asked for this railway to be made.

*LORD CRANBORNE: There was no survey for that.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Two years ago we were aked to grant a sum for making a survey for the construciton of this line. That survey was made, and it was upon that survey that the estimate was made of £2,500,000, the sum for which the contractors of that time say today they were willing to build this railway. The contractors said they would make it for only £10,000 more. In view of these facts, I think the Committee should have not only a promise of better management in the future, but also an assurance that there will be an investigation as to how these mistaken estimates arose, and who was responsible for them. We should also be informed whether the persons who were responsible for the mistaken estimates are still in the employ of the Government, and whether any personal advantage to themselves has accrued during all these years in the carrying out of this undertaking. There was nothing more rife than charges of corruption against the Government of the Transvaal some time ago, but I venture to say that there was nothing that had a stronger smell of corruption in the history of that Government than the case with which we are now dealing, where a railway which was estimated to cost two and a half millions has cost five and a half millions. This money has obviously been squandered, and the money has gone into the pockets of interested parties at the expense of the State.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) thought the Committee had been unwittingly misled by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen. He stated that the line to Beira was one which required expensive beds in its formation.

MR. BRYCE dissented.

MR. MARKHAM said he was there when the line to Beira was being constructed, and he could state that the whole of it was of the most tin-pot description. The rails were 20 lbs., and the engines 20 tons, and the whole line as a working machine was valueless. He was the guest of Mr. Pauling at the time the line was being made, and he received very great kindness from him. He did not think that gentlemen failed to carry out his work properly. The object was to get a line made to enable material to be transported to Rhodesia, and for that purpose alone. The railway was made "on the cheap," it was not a good, substantial line, and it had to be entirely remodelled before it became a working machine. He protested against the idea put forward by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton that it was necessary in constructing such railways to give concessions along the line. All the trouble we had had in South Africa was due to the granting of concessions, and he objected to the perpetuation of that system in Uganda. He was opposed to the building of the line out of the pockets of the British taxpayers, for he thought Uganda had not yet reached that stage of development when a work of this kind should be carried out, but since the Government had decided to construct the line, he entirely dissented from the view that the adjoining territory should have been farmed out to concessionaires.

SIR HENRY FOWLER said that was not the view he expressed.

MR. MARKHAM said the right hon. Gentleman stated that was the way in which the lines in Canada had been constructed. The contractors in this case had asked for mineral concessions, but when the Canadian lines were made, only grants of land were given. The right hon. Gentleman wished to carry out that principle, and that was a principle he was utterly opposed to, especially in Africa. He thought it was only fair to say that in his opinion it was a wrong conclusion to come to, that because the Beira railway was made for a small sum, the Uganda railway should also be made for a small sum. The Uganda railway was a substantial one, but the Beira railway could not be so described. The difficulties which were encountered in making the Uganda railway were far greater than those which were met with in the other case.

*SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) thought hon. Members should not be too apt to come to the conclusion that because this railway had cost more than the estimates which were submitted to the House, it was therefore wrong that the railway should be made by a Department rather than let on a contract. If contractors had undertaken to make a line from Mombasa to the Lake, they would have been quite as much in the dark as the Government had been, and their estimate of two and a-half millions must have been very largely conjectural. It certainly did not include the charge which was involved in the necessity of protecting the constructors of the railway from the tribes which were known to be very turbulent on occasions, and in fact there were unknown liabilities besides. The only thing the contractors could look to as a matter of business in undertaking such a liability at such a price would have been the prospect of the enormous potential advantage. It was believed that in some parts of this road there were very valuable minerals, and of course by undertaking such a work, with large blocks of land granted, there would have been great potential advantages. He doubted very much whether any Government would have been justified in parting with such extensive territories. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton had referred to the working of this system of construction in America, where every inch of the ground was known. There part of the land on each side of the railway was given as the price of the construction of the line, and then the settlement of those parts proceeded, so that money was put into the pockets of the Government in two ways—by the traffic which was brought to the line; also by the increased population and by the general benefit to the State. He recollected when he was himself in Australia that Colony thought it was desirable that a telegraph line should be constructed across Australia—two thousand miles in length, over which only two men had travelled without being lost. It was found impossible to get contractors at any reasonable price to undertake the contract for the whole line, but contractors were willing to make 500 miles at either end. The Government of the Colony undertook to construct the thousand miles in the interior themselves, and finished them before the contractors for the northern end. With such unknown liabilities as the Government had before them in Uganda, he held it was only right and prudent that they should keep the territory in their own hands rather than to grant concessions to private contractors. It was futile now to go into the question why this Uganda railway should be made at all. They were pressed fifteen years ago by certain Members at present on the Opposition Bench to be more forward in the acquisition of territory in the British interest in the great country they were now considering, and to be beforehand in taking possession of this territory with all its contingent liabilities.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said the noble Lord's statement was very unsatisfactory, except in regard to one point. That point was that the climate of Uganda was very disappointing. He was very much pleased to hear it. The noble Lord had entirely overlooked to deal with the point made about the contractors. It was said by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North East Manchester that we should have had to give the contractors every alternate square mile, and that was objected to by the right hon. Gentleman. It was forgotten that if we had given the contractors every alternate square mile, the railway would not have cost the ratepayers of this country anything. It would be giving away what was not ours, whereas we had to pay this additional two or three millions which had to come out of the pockets of some of the very poorest people of these islands. When the Government made railways in other people's countries he entirely approved of giving away the land of those countries instead of finding the money out of the pockets of our own taxpayers. Complaint was made in *The Times* this morning that while from start to finish of this undertaking those gentlemen were pestering—well, he would not say pestering—Lord Salisbury and Lord Cranborne, no reply was ever given to them. In order to prop up the railway they were told that there were large mineral resources in the country, but the country was inhabited by savage and turbulent tribes who would not work at half-a-crown a day, and coolies had to be imported from India. He found that there were to be thirty-six stations on the line, or a station nearly every fifteen miles. Fifteen thousand pounds had been spent on each station. The original estimate for the station buildings was £372,000, but it was now £570,000, or nearly £200,000 of an excess. What sort of stations were they going to have for these negroes in East Africa? Were there going to be waiting-rooms, lavatories, and all modern improvements? A labourer's cottage of two rooms could be built for £120, and yet these galvanised iron sheds were to cost £15,000 each for the benefit of the people of that country. The craze for Imperialism had reached that part of Africa. He noticed that one of the bridges on the Uganda railway was called the Salisbury Bridge, another the Devonshire Bridge, and a third the Chamberlain Bridge. Now, as they owed the railway to Lord Rosebery, he would suggest that the leading Imperial lavatory should, in honour of the clean slate, be called "The Rosebery."

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time tomorrow.

*MR. SPEAKER said there was no other business before the House at the Morning Sitting. The sitting did not technically come to an end till 7.30, but with the permission of the House he would leave the Chair, and would return to it if any formal business had to be transacted, such as receiving a Bill coming from the House of Lords.

The sitting was suspended at ten minutes past four o'clock.

VENEZUELA—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

(9.0.) MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I rise to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to the present state of our relations with the Republic of Venezuela. Burke once said it was the first duty of Members of Parliament to be jealous of the action of the executive, and I therefore make no apology for introducing at this period of the Session a subject which is now so markedly in the eye of the world as this is, especially as, in view of the nature of the work which Parliament has still to accomplish, there is not likely to be any other opportunity of discussing the Venezuelan question. I feel decidedly hampered in making out a case, because the Papers have only been in circulation since two o'clock today. It is difficult for any one to pick out the facts in so short a time, or to verify statements contained in the Blue-book by information derivable from other sources. That is, however, a slight matter compared with the neglect by the Government of its duty to this House. In Germany, nearly a week ago, the matter was before the Reichstag, and ample information was given to the German nation; but with our own Parliament, although the Leader of the Opposition asked for Papers fully a week ago, they are only forthcoming today, which fact naturally precludes an adequate discussion taking place. I had always looked on the German Government as one of the most despotic Governments, and it is a little surprising that the English Government, which is supposed to be the very reverse, and to be popularly represented, should so long delay the representation to the House of these very important Papers. One of the morning papers — the *Morning Post* — which is more affected towards the Government than I am, says in its first leading article that "in the absence of knowledge we have to live by faith." My faith in the present Government is very small and exiguous, therefore I require facts and details before forming very strong opinions on any question. To declare war is to undertake a great responsibility at any time, but to do so without consulting Parliament, and without explanation to Parliament, is a much more responsible and extraordinary proceeding. I should have thought that the Jingo Ministry, having only just concluded a war in South Africa, which has been the means of losing many precious lives as well as 220 millions of treasure, would not have been anxious to engage in another war, especially as they have already on their hands a war with the Waziris and a conflict in Somaliland. I am almost tempted to conclude that this Government is anxious to show that it can take up a determined position in foreign politics, even when the Colonial Secretary is riding the waves of the Eastern Ocean.

I ask the Government to give full details to the House and the country with regard to the motives which have led them—not, perhaps, to declare war, but at any rate to institute a blockade of the Venezuelan coast. I have examined the correspondence laid before us today in the brief time at my disposal, and I must say I am astonished at the very small amount of evidence which is given of the necessity for taking such drastic action. It seems to me that the complaints made by our Government to the Venezuelan Government are rather exiguous, and scarcely sufficient to base such very violent action upon them. The first place in the Government complaint is given to what it calls the unjustifiable interference with the liberty and property of British subjects, including the shipping claims. What are these claims on which the Government base their warlike attitude? They are eight in number—first the seizure by the Venezuelan gunboat of the "Augusto"; second, the case of the "Sea Horse"; third, the case of the "Maria Theresa"; fourth, the case of the "Pastor"; fifth, the case of the "Indiana"; sixth, the case of the "In Time"; seventh, the case of "The Queen"; and lastly, the case of the "Racer." I should like the House to note the fact that the first, second, and fourth of these cases have reference to seizures of property of alleged British subjects at or on the island of Patos, off Trinidad, which is claimed by the Venezuelan Government as their own property. For some time the Venezuelan Government has kept a revenue cutter in the offing of the island with a view to preventing smuggling between Venezuela and Trinidad. Therefore it seems to me that the question of the ownership of Patos Island is one which needs both evidence and proof. I suppose the war, or attack on Venezuela, has not been carried out with the view of deciding whether that island does or does not belong to us or Venezula. I do not wish to take the part of Venezuela without hearing the whole case argued, but on the assumption of the Venezuelans that the island belongs to them, I can quite imagine that it must be irritating to them to have the island of Trinidad made a base for smuggling operations in their country. I know it has gone on for generations, and I do not see how it can be stopped, but it is known that the Venezuelan Government have felt that if stronger measures were taken by us in our own island of Trinidad a great deal of smuggling would be prevented. The case of Spain and Gibraltar affords an illustration of what is going on—there is a chronic state of smuggling between the two places.

I should like to read to the House what the Government itself says with regard to the Island of Patos. On page 2 I find these words—

> "The correspondence exchanged with the Venezuelan Government with reference to this incident made it clear that they were determined to consider and to treat Patos as belonging to the Republic. In these circumstances it was thought expedient to record a formal protest against this renewed and gross violation of British territorial waters by a Venezuelan gunboat which the facts that the 'Pastor' was a Venezuelan vessel, and had infringed the Customs regulations of Trinidad, were not held in any way to justify.
>
> "His Majesty's Minister accordingly made a strong remonstrance with reference to this incident, but the Venezuelan Government stated that they could not make any investigation with regard to the violation of British territory, as they considered Patos Island, on which the violation occurred, as their own legitimate possession."

I would like to know whether our Government has not tacitly accepted this position. From the correspondence it looks as if we did not insist very emphatically on our rights, and the Venezuelans may possibly have imagined that their claim was admitted by us. With regard to the case of the "Maria Theresa," which was burned by those in charge of the "Miranda," it is stated that—

> "The Venezuelan Government, in justification of the 'Miranda's' action, contended that the owner and master of the sloop had been actively engaged in assisting the revolutionists against President Castro. Although the treatment of the British subjects on board the sloop afforded ground for remonstrance, the Government forbore to press the matter strongly, as there was some evidence that the vessel had been in communication with, if not in the employ of, the revolutionary party. Further inquiry and explanation were promised."

Then comes the case of the "Indiana," which was confiscated because she was accused of being a smuggler, the seizure having taken place on the river Barima, within Venezuelan territory, the waters of which are, by the terms of the Anglo-Venezuelan Boundary Award, open to the navigation of all nations in time of peace. It is stated on page 3—

> "There was no evidence to support this charge of smuggling, and the colonial authorities, to whom the case was reported, point out that the confiscation of the vessel was an excessively severe penalty for any infraction of the Customs Law, if such were deemed to have occurred. The representations made to the Venezuelan Government have hitherto failed to elicit any explanation."

It certainly does seem to be rather hard that a vessel should be destroyed because it was suspected of being engaged in smuggling, and I, for one, do not see any good reason for the exercise of force of that kind. Now we have the case of the "In Time," which was destroyed by the Venezuelan gunboat "General Crespo." I think that was pretty high-handed, and I make a present to the Government of that case as counting in their favour—

> "In connection with this case" we are told "that the Minister was instructed to inform the Venezuelan Government that unless they could disprove the reports received as to the destruction of this vessel, His Majesty's Government might be obliged to cease extending the hospitality of British ports to Venezuelan cruisers."

I am sorry that the Government has not given so the exact words of that notification, so we are unable to judge whether the communication from our Foreign Office was, or was not, of a needlessly offensive character. There only remain the cases of the "Queen," reported by His Majesty's Minister at Caracas, in June, as having been confiscated on a charge of having carried a cargo of arms to Venezuela, and of the "Racer," which was seized on September 22nd. These are cases which, I think, require explanations from the Venezuelan Government. I perfectly understand that we have to take into consideration the fact that for the last eighteen months or two years a revolution has been raging in Venezuela, and that during such times of crisis it is not easy for those in command of gunboats to exactly carry out their operations with every legal formality. It will not be forgotten that during the war in which we were recently engaged in South Africa we had to apologise to one or two foreign nations for rather high-handed proceedings on the part of our own zealous commanders, but this is usually condoned in such times.

These eight cases I have detailed to the House are, as I understand, our first line of defence, or rather of attack, and they seem to me rather small points upon which to base such an extreme proceeding as the sending of a huge fleet to the Venezuelan coast. The dates at which some of these seizures were made should be borne in mind. The "In Time" was seized on May 1st, 1902; the "British Queen" in June the same year, and the "Racer" in September. It does not seem that very much time was allowed to the Venezuelan Government to offer explanations, because, on November 11th, the first ultimatum was delivered. We must admit that President Castro, who was engaged in active warlike operations for the defence of his Government, and was indeed struggling for his own life, was not in a favourable position to carry such negotiations as these to a successful issue. I quite admit that many of the South American presidents are very irritating politicians. I have been a merchant in Manchester for twenty-five years, and I know that I have had to leave valuable property in Venezuela, St. Salvador, Columbia, and other countries, which I shall probably never look upon again in this world. I am therefore quite able to sympathise with this Government. It is its duty in a general way to protect the interests of British citizens, but what they have done on this occasion, looks to me like using a Nasmyth hammer in order to crack a nut, and if they had allowed President Castro a little more time to pull himself together, it might have been possible to convince him of the desirability of satisfying our claims without having recourse to such drastic measures.

The second line of defence of the Government may be very much stronger. I am open to conviction on that point. These are the claims for injury to British property during the late Revolution, and the Revolution which put President Castro in power. There are no details given of these claims, and I have not had time to make inquiry in those quarters where it might be possible to get the information. I therefore await with great interest the statement the noble Lord has to make in regard to it. The third line is concerned with the claims of the bondholders. I always feel a little suspicious of these claims, especially when they are raised against a small nation. I believe there are some fine old defaulters to be found among the nations of Europe. There is, for instance, the irrepressible Turk, and there is also the case of Portugal. We have sustained serious losses in Turkey without sending a single warship there, while as to

Portugal, she is still our friend. Surely, this House and the country have a right to know what those claims are. Here, in conjunction with Germany, we are sending a fleet to attack an apparently friendly country, and yet no information is vouchsafed to us. I am a lover of the principles of arbitration, and it would have to be a very peculiar war which found me among its defenders. I suppose, with reference to the bondholders, some of the claims are in connection with arrears of payment for English and German built railways, but as to that, the hon. Member for Pembrokeshire, who is to second this Motion, has fuller information. I should like to know, speaking as a Lancashire man, whether, before taking this unexpected action, the Government consulted the Associated Chambers of Commerce, or the Chambers of Commerce of Manchester and Lancashire. Hon. Members may laugh, but it must be remembered that we have enormous business dealings with Venezuela. America, of course, is not likely to disapprove of England and Germany putting pressure on Venezuela, because that would probably mean the boycotting of their goods to the great advantage of American trade. These questions are very interesting to us. We have no Minister of Commerce in our Cabinet, and I am not certain that it would not be better for us if a few business men had seats therein, but it does seem to be desirable that, in a matter like this, some of these large Chambers should be consulted—of course, in quite a confidential manner—for they represent some of the right and power of the nation.

I was glad to hear it stated this afternoon from the Treasury Bench that we were entirely independent of Germany, and that each nation was solely responsible for its own acts. It is only right that if any indiscretions are committed the responsibility shall rest with those guilty of them. Perhaps the noble Lord will be able to give us fuller details on this point of the responsibilities of each Power, and also as to the attitude of the United States. We all understand the attitude of the United States, which is not opposing in any way the action of the two Powers, but, at the same time, we know that at any moment entanglement may occur. The Monroe doctrine has many times been used for Presidential election purposes, and, consequently, there may at any time be a change in American sentiment. I believe we may expect all reasonable moral support from President Roosevelt. But it is noticeable that the *New York World* and the *New York Herald* are strongly urging arbitration, and the *Herald* says—

> "For lack of a statesman in the British Cabinet, England is cajoled into co-operating with Germany in an enterprise which may result in an attempt to extend European dominion over the Western Hemisphere, which the Monroe doctrine declares must be regarded as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States."

I see, too, that the *Standard* correspondent in New York says—

> "The general feeling in Congress is confidence in Messrs. Roosevelt and Hay. Senator Cullon, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, says that the collection of Venezuela's debts by the process communicated to the United States is different from the course that affairs are taking, and which might call for prompt action if the allies were to march to Caracas or invade Venezuela. Mr. Cullon would regard it as a first step towards permanent occupation or acquisition of territory, whether the allies considered it so or not, or by whatever name they described their operations."

I see that the *New York Sun* and the *New York Herald* express the views that the bombardment was unduly precipitate. I do not endorse everything said in these papers; I am only reading these extracts to show how opinion may be aroused which would force the hands of those who otherwise would be anxious to act in harmony with us. I notice that a German paper, the *Neueste Nachrichten*, naively admits that—

> "Had we Germans intervened alone with armed force in Venezuela, we should have run a risk which is not worth the prize we hope to obtain."

I conclude by saying that the complaints which the Government have put in the first rank are most slender upon which to base so awful a contingency as war, although the Government may have a long list of valid and important claims which may induce the House of Commons to endorse them. But as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Montrose Burghs said at Manchester, "There is nothing which refuses to go by programme so much as war." Therefore, while protecting a few ships, we may find ourselves in a much more general engagement than we expect. If the second and third rank arguments are more weighty, let us, by all means, have them. We know that many nations have defrauded us; and that, if we attack them all, we shall have our hands full. Will the Government tell us what they propose to do if arbitration fails? I was glad to see from the evening papers that Lord Lansdowne has informed the nation in another place that the United States has offered its services in case Venezuela is willing to settle matters by arbitration. It is only upon the first claims that the Government are insisting upon an immediate reply; they are willing to submit the other claims raised during the penultimate revolution and the revolution which has just occurred, to a small Mixed Commission, which would ascertain whether they were fully justified or not. In a despatch from Lord Lansdowne, dated 17th November, I find the following statement:—

> "On receiving the submission of the Venezuelan Government, and on learning that they were prepared to admit their liability on every count, His Majesty's Government would for their part exact immediate payment of the pressing claims in the first category, according to estimates approved by His Majesty's Legation at Caracas, or by the British Colonial authorities. They would then consent to the heavier claims being referred to a small Mixed Commission in case the Venezuelan Government should have any considerations to urge in mitigation of the damages claimed. An arrangement of this nature would be equitable as regards the Venezuelan Government, and would, moreover, prevent pressure being exercised in cases such as might possibly occur, where the Venezuelan members of the Commission could prove a claim to be unfounded or excessive."

I am glad to think, and the House will be glad to think, that the Government does not exclude the idea of arbitration by a Mixed Commission; and I hope that the offer of the American Government will lead to such a Commission being formed. But I should like to know what engagements we have undertaken with the German Government; and whether the American Government has fixed any limit as to the time for the evacuation of any port or portion of Venezuela which may be temporarily held by England and Germany. I do not wish to detain the House further. [Some ironical laughter on the MINISTERIAL Benches.] Hon. Members laugh. This is a very important matter, and those are the sort of Members who seem to me to disgrace this House.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a proper expression.

MR. SCHWANN: I will put it in a different way, Sir—

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must withdraw the expression before he makes any further observation.

MR. SCHWANN: I will be very happy to withdraw the expression; but it seems to me that when such an important question as this, which affects the interests of two nations, and which may take an extension we do not dream of at present, is received with laughter by hon. Members, it shows how splendidly fitted they are for their position as Members of this House. I beg to move, Sir, that this House will now adjourn.

(9.35.) MR. PHILIPPS (Pembroke): In supporting this Motion, I may say I am very glad to see that the British Government are doing something to look after the interests of British traders and British investors in other countries. In my humble judgment, the British Government have not done enough in that direction in past years; and I should be the last to complain of their trying to do something; but I do not agree with the time or the methods. First of all, as to the claims which have been put forward on behalf of British subjects in the correspondence which was issued this afternoon, I should like the House to remember that the Island of Trinidad is very largely inhabited by people of the same blood and language as the people of Venezuela; and that it is used as a base for smuggling and revolution. In fact, Port of Spain is the natural home of the Venezuelan revolutionist out of a job; and when we hear of a British subject being seized, we must remember that, in three cases out of four, although the man is a British subject because he was born in Trinidad, he is, nevertheless, a Venezuelan by descent; and that the Venezuelan coastguard has the greatest difficulty in telling whether he is a British subject or a Venezuelan doing his best to assist revolution by importing arms and money. Still, I am willing to admit that the Government are undoubtedly doing their best in putting forward these claims. Some of them are undoubtedly strong claims, and the Government ought not to be blamed for doing something towards looking after the interests of British investors abroad, whatever some of my hon. friends may think of that; because, I cannot help thinking, that when a Briton invests his money abroad he is required to pay income-tax in order that this country may do something to assist him when it gets a chance. The Government have a moral right to assist him; and it is only a question of degree, and whether it is wise to do so in each particular case. I have been trying to make out what the total claims of Great Britain and Germany are likely to be. I have not been able to arrive at the actual figures, because I have not the information which is at the disposal of the Government; but I have reckoned up the amount as well as I could. The public debt of Venezuela is mainly held in Great Britain, and the coupons are in default to the extent of nearly £700,000. Then we have large claims on behalf of some of the railway companies. In the report of the Bolivar Railway Company, it is stated that from December to June the railway was only in English hands for ten days. That railway has undoubtedly a claim against the Venezuelan Government which they compute at between £40,000 and £50,000, and which will ultimately be probably £60,000. Our claims will amount to a minimum of about £900,000; but I should like to ask the Government if they are going to make claims against every foreign State that is in default on its debt. There are plenty of others. There is Guntemala, Columbia, and Honduras. Are the Government going to blockade these countries, because they are in default on their debt? If they are, they certainly ought to blockade Honduras, which has been in default since 1871. The debt is only £900,000, but the outstanding coupons amount to £2,600,000. If the Government are not going to blockade Honduras, I should like to know why not. [An HON. MEMBER: The bonds are not mentioned.] Yes they are mentioned on page 16 of the Correspondence, where it is stated that the claims of the Government—

> "Must be understood to include all well-founded claims which have arisen in consequence of the late civil war and previous civil wars, and of the maltreatment or false imprisonment of British subjects, and also a settlement of the external debt."

That, of course, means the bonds. There are plenty of other claims against other Central American Republics. The other day some friends showed me a claim by a British subject against the Government of Nicaragua, in which an Englishman was so ill-treated that he was actually obliged to shut up his business altogether. I was asked whether the Government would help, and I said I thought not. If I were asked tomorrow, I would say that I was sure the Government would help, because the claim is a far stronger one than anything that is alleged in these Papers against Venezuela. Why, when we have stronger cases against Guatemala, Nicaragua, Columbia, and Honduras, have we taken up the case against Venezuela? Because, in that case, we have the Germans to help us, and because of the pressure which has been exercised on behalf of the German Government. The British claims, as far as I have been able to estimate them, are, as I have stated, about £900,000. The German Government claim for damages during the civil war about £188,000, in addition to which there will be claims in connection with German railways amounting to about £200,000. That would be a total of about £1,250,000 altogether. A debtor presses a creditor for a debt when he considers it is a good moment to get him to pay it; but how can anyone who knows anything about the country believe that this is a good moment to make Venezuela pay. The country has been absolutely torn by civil war for three or four years; its exports have fallen off by one-third; and the Government, even if they were ever so willing to pay, have not a shilling in the Treasury.

Now, I should like to say a word or two as to the methods we have adopted. I notice that Lord Lansdowne, in his instructions to Mr. Haggard, said that he left to his discretion the method of presenting the ultimatum. I never heard anything like the way in which that ultimatum was presented. I should have thought that the first move in conducting business like this would be for the British Minister, before presenting the ultimatum, to notify British subjects, in order that they might have a chance of getting out of the country; but in this case, the British and German Ministers left the ultimatums together, and sidled away out of the country without telling anyone. It was very safe and very discreet; but it did not seem a kind thing towards their fellow subjects. It was not the usual course; it was not recommended by the Government, and I should like to know if it were the independent action of Mr. Haggard, in which case he is not a fit man to represent British interests abroad, or if it were the result of pressure by the German Government. There appears to be some misapprehension as to the taking of British and German subjects as prisoners. The moment I heard that, my own opinion was that they were taken prisoners really for their safety. When there was an excited feeling in the capital I am quite certain that the safest place to put a British subject was undoubtedly the gaol. I should like to say a few words about the bombardment, of which we heard today. I see it reported that the old Spanish Castle of Porto Cabello has been destroyed. The Castle was about as capable of doing damage as the Tower of London or Windsor Castle. It was of great antiquarian interest; it had a few popguns which would be able to throw a shot a few hundred yards; but it was absolutely incapable of being taken seriously as an instrument of aggression by anyone. I think it is most lamentable that our sailors, or the German sailors, should have bombarded this interesting old building, and should have treated it seriously as a warlike enterprise. There is also a report that the Germans have destroyed some of the Venezuelan fleet. I have not been in Venezuela for seven or eight years, but when I was there I do not think that any competent judge would have risked £20,000 on the purchase of the whole fleet. It consisted of a few antiquated old tubs, most of them incapable of steaming; and the House will understand the reason when I tell them that the favourite Venezuelan notion is to use salt water in the boilers. The House will perhaps now understand why the German sailors thought it better to sink them. What we want to know from the Government is, what are they going to do? It is perfectly certain that the seizure of the Venezuelan fleet will have no effect at all on the mind of the Venezuelans. Between ourselves and the German Government a claim has been put forward amounting to about a million and a quarter. But how are you going to get it? I do not believe that, in the best of times, the Venezuelan customs ever yielded a million a year, and I do not think that you would be able to collect a million and a quarter in two years, and I even doubt whether you would be able to collect it in three years. Then there is no mention of the fact that the President of Venezuela will, I imagine, call Congress together and abolish the Customs duties. In that case, if the Government can induce any one to pay Customs duties to it, it will be exceptionally lucky. The President is reported to have asked for arbitration. I hope the Government will agree to it. They have had some little experience of arbitration with Venezuela. They should remember the dispute over the boundaries. For years and years Venezuela was asking for arbitration, but Lord Salisbury refused it over and over again. Then America asked for it, and we granted it next day. We ate dirt. [HON MEMBERS: "Oh!"] Is it not eating dirt to refuse a thing to a weak man and grant it next day to a strong man? I should like to point out that when Mr. Haggard presented something very like an ultimatum to the Venezuelan Minister, the Minister's final remark was that "they were used to these communications." In other words, they had seen so much of the British Government that they did not take it seriously. If you are really going to hold these ports and collect the Customs, you cannot collect the full amount of our claims for two years, and probably not for three years; and remember that all that time the claim will be increasing, because the debt will continue. The best thing to be done is to accept arbitration of any kind you can get. Do you believe that the United States, however quietly it may now appear to regard the situation, is going to sit down and allow our Government and the German Government to occupy the Venezuelan Custom Houses for three or four years?

I want to press one thing most strongly on the Government. I do beg that, whatever the Germans may do, our Government will not commit themselves to any expeditions into the interior of the country. One thing is certain from the history of the Venezuelans; they will fight. There has never been a nation with Spanish blood in it that would not fight when the pinch came. In Venezuela they have been steadily fighting among themselves during the greater part of the last seven or eight years; in fact, outsiders might say that every man who was not a first-rate fighting man must have been killed off already, that only the *crême de la crême* can have survived, and they are the people you will have to meet if you go into the interior. We have heard of this Government of ours conducting warlike operations without maps. I hope they will consult a large scale map before they embark on any expedition, even with the help of the Germans, into the interior of Venezuela. On a small map it looks an easy thing to march up to the capital and seize Caracas, which is only seven miles from the coast. The Government may be encouraged to seize Caracas by the fact that Drake seized it before them. But I do not think you have a Drake sitting on the Treasury Bench, although I have no doubt the Secretary of State for War would consider himself fully competent to take his place. At any rate, I am convinced that the march to Caracas would be no child's play. Caracas is only seven miles from the sea, but the mountains in between are 8,000 feet high, and are covered with wood, and even the railway route over the passes, which, naturally, is the shortest possible, is twenty-three miles long. Even if Caracas be seized, it must be remembered that it is a large town with 70,000 inhabitants, who will have to be fed; it is commanded all round by mountains; and a large army would be required to keep up the communications with the coast, short though the distance is. I do not know what the Government are going to tell us, but I hope they will say most decidedly that their operations are to be limited to the coast, and that they do not intend to go into the interior on any wild goose expeditions. My belief is that the Government have embarked on one of the rashest operations that this country has ever undertaken; I hope they will stop while there is time, and take any kind of arbitration that is held out to them, for I believe that any sort of settlement they are likely to get by peace will prove more honourable to them, and a great deal better for the British bondholders, than anything they are likely to obtain by war.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Schwann.*)

*(10.0.) LORD CRANBORNE: I am not quite certain how I ought to treat the speech of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. I will not dwell on the questions he has asked with reference to the bombardment reported in the evening papers; in the absence of further information it would be unwise to comment upon it. Nor will I take much notice of the observations he thought fit to make on the attitude of our representative in Venezuela, and the course of conduct pursued by him at the critical moment of the presentation of the ultimatum. For my part I observe nothing in the least undignified in his proceedings; he acted in precise conformity with the instructions he had received from the Foreign Office. He was ordered by the Foreign Office to give the Venezuelan Government every opportunity to avoid the crisis to which we have reluctantly been driven; he gave them twenty-four hours notice at Caracas, and another twenty-four hours when he got to La Guaira, and I consider that he carried out his instruction absolutely, and showed our desire to avoid, if at all possible, the unfortunate arbitrament to which in the end we have been obliged to appeal. I was more attracted by the earlier part of the hon. Gentleman's speech, in which, as far as I could make out, he tried to show that we ought to go to war with every South

American Republic. He began by saying that he thought not only the more important parts, but every part of our *casus belli* was good, and that it applied to every South American Republic. That observation was undoubtedly extravagant, but I can hardly reckon the hon. Gentleman, after the early and more serious portion of his speech, as an opponent of the policy of His Majesty's Government.

Now I turn to the hon. Gentleman the Member for North Manchester, who complained that the Papers on the situation had been long delayed, and were meagre in substance. I can assure the hon. Member that these Papers, which are but summaries of the voluminous Papers which will be presented later on, have been prepared with the least possible delay, in order to give the House and the country a full knowledge of the situation in Venezuela. These Papers were undoubtedly delayed, but I would ask the House to consider how very difficult it is for a Department engaged in most critical negotiations, involving immense labour, to give the additional time necessary to get Papers together for presentation to Parliament. I can assure the House that no time has been unnecessarily lost in their preparation. Besides, it should be remembered that the Papers could not be presented until the actual crisis had come, for up till the last moment His Majesty's Government hoped that the Venezuelan Government would take a reasonable view of the situation and accede to our demands; and the House will recognise that no course could be more unfortunate than to publish the causes of our quarrel with the Venezuelan Government while there was still a chance that peace might be preserved. It was only when the forty-eight hours' notice had expired, and all hope of an amicable solution had to be abandoned, that the Papers could be got together and presented. Very few days have since elapsed, and I really do not think there is any great cause of complaint in that respect.

As I listened to the speech of the hon. Member for North Manchester, I wondered in what capacity the hon. Gentleman spoke. Was it as a British Member of Parliament? The hon. Gentleman strained every point which could be made against His Majesty's Government in this issue. He was like a third-rate attorney. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] The Leader of the Opposition says "No," but the right hon. Gentleman was not present during the whole of the speech; he did not come in, I think, until the hon. Gentleman had nearly finished.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Oh, no.

*LORD CRANBORNE: Then I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon. But, at any rate, the hon. Gentleman the Member for North Manchester argued the case as an advocate for the Venezuelan Government. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] He certainly did not argue it as the advocate of the British Government—I did not expect that; but he was not even judicial or impartial. What he did was to endeavour to paint the attitude of this country as black as he could, to show that in every particular we had strained every point against the Venezuelan Government and to convict us of oppressive action, a suggestion which I believe the hon. Gentleman in his judicial moments—for I am sure the hon Gentleman has judicial moments—would feel was not justified. The real truth is that in this matter the British Government have been engaged in the performance of the necessary police duties of enforcing the laws which have to exist between all the nations of the world. They have to restore order where order is destroyed; and they have to prevent such nations as Venezuela from breaking what is an obvious law of nations. The hon. Gentleman has asked why we did not apply to the Chambers of Commerce before taking proceedings against Venezuela.

MR. SCHWANN: I said the Government might have asked the bondholders what they thought on the matter.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I will deal with the bondholders presently. Surely you would not expect a policeman to ask the permission of the neighbouring tradesmen before trying to stop an assault that was being committed in the streets? That is precisely the situation in Venezuela in which we were placed.

It has been asked what view the United States takes of the situation. I can inform the House that the United States takes the very reasonable and sensible view of the situation that was to be expected from that country. They recognise that the insistence of England that the Venezuelan Government should meet its engagements and respect the rights of British subjects is in no way an infraction of the Monroe doctrine, and they recognise that no nation in the world has been more anxious than England to assist them in maintaining that doctrine. As the House is aware, in a celebrated passage in his Message to Congress, the President announced that in insisting on a South American Republic meeting its international obligations no European Power was infringing the Monroe doctrine.

Then the hon. Members who have addressed us began to discuss the various categories of claims which we have against Venezuela, and, as far as I could make out, the hon. Member who last addressed the House thought the most important were those of the bond-holders.

MR. PHILIPPS: Oh no, decidedly not.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I can frankly tell the House that it is not the claims of the bond-holders that bulk largest in the estimation of the Government. I do not believe the Government would ever have taken the strong measures to which they have been driven if it had not been for the attacks by Venezuela upon the lives, the liberty, and the property of British subjects. The hon. Member for North Manchester seemed to speak of the bond-holders with great contempt. I do not think that was deserved. The hon. Gentleman seemed to think the bond-holder a sort of *hostis humani generis*, who might be attacked and despoiled at pleasure, and was not entitled to consideration. I do not in the least agree with the hon. Gentleman. In my view the bond-holders have conferred very great benefits on these South America Republics, and are entitled to protection from their own country; and, if that be true of the bond-holders, it is still more true of those who have invested their money in great industrial enterprises in that part of the world.

When I hear such charges as have been made against the Government coming from the Opposition, I am astonished, because usually I have to listen to very severe strictures upon the Government for not maintaining the rights of British investors in all parts of the world. If they are discussing China, it is said what a contemptible Government we are, and that we do not do what foreign Governments do to protect the rights of their people, but now that the Government have found it necessary to vindicate British interests in South America, and because it is the present Government who have so acted, the complaint is no longer that we do not maintain British interests, but that we maintain them much too vigorously. As I have said, in our view by far the most important matter is the attacks on British subjects. The hon. Member for North Manchester said that several of these attacks had to do with Patos Island. Our position in Patos Island is a very strong one. That island was a part of the Government of Trinidad when Trinidad was ceded to Great Britain. I think I am not wrong in saying that our sovereignty was exercised over it for fifty years without question, and it was only in 1859 that any question of our right in that island was even mooted. But the charges made against the Venezuelan Government, even in the instance named by the hon. Member, do not depend on our title to Patos Island. Even if it belonged to the Venezuelan Government, the action they have taken is wholly unjustifiable. Take the first case on the list. On the morning of 22nd January, the Venezuelan gunboat "Augusto" appeared off the island, and summoned the people who had landed from a British vessel to come on board the "Augusto." This demand not being complied with, a force of some twenty armed Venezuelans was landed, and proceeded to remove the boats and collect their cargoes. About half the passengers and crews of the trading boats were removed on board the "Augusto," the remainder taking refuge in the woods, where they were left without food, water, or means of leaving the island. Suppose that had occurred even on Venezuelan territory, what possible defence could there be for treating a British ship in that way? The hon. Gentleman said that the position of Patos Island was very like that of Gibraltar, and that, just as the Venezuelans might find fault with what was done on Patos Island, we, on the Rock of Gibraltar, might find fault with what was done on the opposite coast. But what would be said of us if we treated a Spanish ship at Gibraltar in the way the Venezuelans treated these vessels?

MR. SCHWANN: Three of the boats were Venezuelan.

*LORD CRANBORNE: That makes very little difference. One boat was a British boat with a *posse* of British subjects. But that is not the only case, or the strongest case. There is the case of the "In Time." The hon. Gentleman was good enough to say that he would make me a present of that case. Such a present from the advocate of the other side must be a very valuable one, and one for which I am much obliged to him. It appears that a Venezuelan gunboat arrived in the harbour of Pedernales and "orders were given to seize all craft in port, and this was done. No provocation or justification of this order has been assigned." One of the vessels was the "In Time," and she was fired on by the gunboat and an armed party boarded her and broke her up. Then there was the case of the "British Queen." She was not only a British vessel, but she was attacked on the high seas and overhauled. She was seized, taken into a Venezuelan port, stripped of her sails and papers, and finally confiscated on a mere suspicion of having carried a cargo of arms to Venezuela, the crew being put on shore and left destitute.

MR. SCHWANN: I said that that was a very high-handed proceeding.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I am very much obliged to the hon. Gentleman.

MR. SCHWANN: We have no information other than is contained in this book. I have not been to La Guaira, and I think it is rather unfair to treat the matter in the spirit adopted by the noble Lord.

*LORD CRANBORNE: If the hon. Gentleman thinks what we said is not true, that is going a long way even for the advocate on the other side. I will not go into the last, and, perhaps, the worst case of all, that of the ship "Racer," but if the hon. Member refers to it, he will find that that was a particularly pathetic case, because she had been struck by the act of God. She was dismasted, and, taking refuge in the nearest port, she was boarded as she approached by a body of armed men, who pillaged her and robbed the crew of everything they possessed. That was pretty bad, but as she was in port it was thought the authorities would do their best to protect her, and avenge the wrong that had been committed. Not a bit of it. They at once confiscated her by the advice and under the eyes of the Venezuelan Government. These things are, of course, cumulative. It is not one case or two cases. There are six or seven cases of attacks on British ships and British subjects, which make it absolutely necessary that the British Government should intervene. With every regard for the Venezuelan Government, we gave her not one summons, or two, but we gave her three summonses, in the hope that she would yield to our importunity and at last do us justice; but, in the first, second, and third case, she has refused to do anything to meet us and to do us justice, and under these circumstances we were absolutely driven to take the strong course which we have done. Even as it is we desire to pursue the same course of moderation which has dictated our action all through, and though the seizure of the gunboats which has now been accomplished will, unless the Venezuelan Government yields, be succeeded by a blockade of the whole coast, yet we hope and intend that blockade should be carried out with every regard to the interests and rights of neutrals, and, as far as possible, with every regard and consideration that is possible even to the interests of Venezuela. Less than that we could not have done. We fully recognise that the Venezuelan Government is not so highly developed as our own. We fully realise that and we are fully aware of the position which we are fortunate enough to occupy in the world. Therefore, we are bound to act with regard to the rights of others, and I venture to say that if the present Government, or any other Government, had not gone so far as we have done in maintaining and avenging the rights of British subjects we should have been justly exposed to the criticism and condemnation which this House would not have been slow to inflict upon us.

(10.23.) SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The noble Lord ended just where we should have wished him to begin. My hon. friend has moved the adjournment on this occasion in order that the House of Commons and the country may really understand what are the causes of the present situation of affairs with regard to Venezuela, and also what are the intentions and prospects of the Government in carrying out the policy they have entered upon. The noble Lord has said some extraordinary things, and he has assumed for this country duties in the world which, I am afraid, are even too much for the strength and resources which this great country can usefully employ, because he says he has thrown his ægis over all the bondholders.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I must correct the right hon. Gentleman. I do not prejudge the rights of every bondholder in what he puts forward. On the contrary, if the right hon. Gentleman will look at page 11 of the correspondence, he will see that the Government proposed that on the submission of the Venezuelan Government, and after payment of the claims in the first category, they would then consent to the heavier claims being referred to a small Mixed Commission, and he will see further on that there is to be a Venezuelan member of the Commission, and that, if that Member can show that any claim is unfounded or excessive, effect will be given to the finding.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That does not include all the bondholders, but the noble Lord went far beyond the longitude and latitude of Venezuela. He spoke of the bondholders of the whole world, and he spoke of our police duties in restoring order. ["No, no."] He was full of contempt, as you might expect from that sort of spirit which is not infrequently exhibited by the present Government, for my hon. friend the Member for North Manchester. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] I recognise the politeness, the courtesy, of that cheer, so admirable an illustration of the good manners which always characterise the House of Commons. My hon. friend suggested that before taking violent steps in Venezuela, as there was a great body of trade with Venezuela in this country, it would have been well to consult—and he wished to know whether such consultation had taken place—such bodies as the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester, who surely know something about it, and who would be able to tell the Government whether on the whole they thought that more advantage would have been gained to the trade of the country by taking strong measures or by reliance on other courses. [MINISTERIAL interruptions.] Again I notice the courtesy and good feeling which prevails. The noble Lord's view is that when a policeman is engaged in preventing breaches of order and punishishing assaults he is not going to consult the tradesmen in the neighbourhood. The vulgar tradesman—["Oh"]—really he ought not to interfere with a sublime mission of one who has to exercise his authority in the way of police. That is not the tone or spirit in which the affairs of this country are to be successfully conducted, and it is not the tone or spirit in which they were conducted in the days when this country was much more strong than it is at the present day in the respect of the civilised world. When my hon. friend moved the adjournment of the House he went over the separate cases. I am not going over the separate cases, because we are not in a position to judge the merits of each case. They will require, and no doubt will receive, inquiry. As they stand in the, I have no doubt, perfectly honest and straightforward statements conveyed in these Papers themselves, they show a great want of proper conduct and supervision on the part of the Venezuelan Government, and a disregard of international usage on the part of the officials of that Government; and their actions deserve, therefore, not only to be reprobated and protested against, but, if necessary, that protest should be supported by strong measures.

We must remember that it is quite conceivable that there should be strong suspicion attached by Venezuelan officials to vessels proceeding from Port of Spain, especially during a time when one of the innumerable revolutions is going on. Port of Spain is the focus for every intrigue and conspiracy against the

Government of Venezuela; it is the nearest most convenient port for such a purpose, whether it be smuggling or intervention in a revolution; and it is natural they should be inclined to stretch Venezuelan authority to the utmost as against a vessel from that port. That, of course, does not justify or excuse them, but it is a circumstance to be borne in mind in judging the case. But the Papers, although they contain particulars of these irregular and improper proceedings on the part of Venezuelan officials, do not contain other information useful and necessary for us to possess. We have no information as to the extent and character of the financial claims urged on behalf of this country, nor have we any indication whatever as to the nature and extent of the German claims. Germany apparently has none of these breaches of order to resent or punish; the attitude of Germany is based purely on financial claims. We want to know, we ought to know, from the Government—that is why I say the noble Lord stopped where he ought to have begun—we want to know the nature of our own financial claims and of the German claims; because the relations of this country as established by the Government to Germany in this matter are of the most extraordinary, of an almost unprecedented, kind. I am a strong advocate of the best feeling between this country and Germany—I should be very glad to see the two countries acting together on every occasion where it is possible; but the Government has gone a great deal beyond joint action and co-operation in this matter. Look at page 11, and the despatch from Lord Lansdowne. The German Ambassador communicates to Lord Lansdowne the conditions of co-operation. In his despatch to Mr. Buchanan, Lord Lansdowne says:—

> "As to the joint execution of measures of coercion, the German Government recognised that there was a sharp distinction between the character of the British and German 'first-line' claims."

We want to know what is this sharp distinction dividing the claims.

> "Nevertheless, the two claims ought to stand or fall together."

So that we cannot accept compensation for damage done to one of the vessels hailing from Trinidad, we cannot do anything in regard to any of our claims which are on a different footing to those of Germany unless Germany is perfectly satisfied for her claim,

> "And we ought to exclude the possibility of a settlement between Venezuela and one of the two Powers without an equally satisfactory settlement in the case of the other."

Then he goes on to say—

> "I told Count Metternich that it seemed to me only reasonable that, if we agreed to act together in applying coercion, we should also agree that each should support the other's demands, and should not desist from doing so except by agreement."

So we are bound hand and foot to Germany, and the House of Commons and the country have not the ghost of an idea what the claims of Germany may be, whether they are reasonable or unreasonable; we have this responsibility without knowledge, we are bound hand and foot not to accept any satisfaction unless Germany agrees. I venture to say such an arrangement so stringent is not for the best interests of this country. There is no one in the House or out of it more anxious than myself to do away with the stupid bad feeling some people have tried to excite or foster between this country and Germany. Nobody is more anxious to work hand in hand with Germany, as we ought to work, being kindred nations in so many respects. But that we should enter into this in the dark, having claims of different characters, Germany having claims of a financial character of which we are not vouchsafed any explanation, that we should accept no solution of our wholly different claims that did not include complete satisfaction to Germany, to bind ourselves in this way, is a state of things only equalled by some other international arrangements which the Government have within a short time explained to the House, and are endeavouring to bring about.

We have information through the Press that a communication has been received from the United States Government on this subject. I am told so; I have not seen the report of what has occurred in another place, where, I understand, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made the announcement that there had been these communications from the United States; but that is surely a matter of the first importance. Yet the noble Lord, having disposed of this and that case of outrage on this or that vessel, which have been maltreated by the Venezuelans, thinks he has done all he ought to do, and he sits down and leaves the House of Commons destitute of this knowledge which some hours ago was given to the House of Lords. The House and the whole country are anxious to know the nature of this communication; and I am quite sure there will be a universal feeling of satisfaction if it is such as may lead to a peaceful settlement of this question without any further violent measures being taken. But we know nothing; the House of Commons is not allowed to hear a whisper of this, though a communication has been made to the House of Lords. The opinion will be shared by everybody that an opportunity of settling this dispute by arbitration should be availed of; they seem to me to be particularly the sort of claims that can with advantage be submitted to settlement in that way. Perhaps the head of the Government can confirm what his colleague has said elsewhere, if he knows of it, for it is almost inconceivable that the noble Lord should have sat down without reference to it. If somewhere in his pockets he can discover some little note that such an approach has been made to the Government of this country by the Government of the United States, I am sure the whole House will rejoice to know it, and hope that they will find in it a solution of what, after all, we cannot but regard as a somewhat squalid difficulty.

(10.40.) MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down has, I think, misunderstood the intentions of the mover and seconder of this Motion. He certainly misunderstood the Government of this country, and he has also misunderstood the Government of the United States—a considerable list of misunderstanding for one speech. As regards the intention of the mover and seconder, the right hon. Gentleman was good enough to suggest that their object was simply to elicit information from the Government. If that was the object, they set about it in the most extraordinary way.

MR. SCHWANN: You were not present.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, but the fame of the hon. Gentleman's speech has reached my ears, and I was present during the speech of the hon. Gentleman who seconded it, and I understood that speech to be entirely worthy of the first. I can state with absolute confidence, from personal experience of the second speech and the authenticated report of the first speech, that whatever else they may have intended to do, their object was not to elicit information from the Government but to throw discredit upon them; and there was no virtue, except, perhaps, efficiency in naval matters, which they were not prepared to attribute to the Venezuelans, and no vice which they were not prepared to attribute to those who now control the affairs of this country. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh!" and MINISTERIAL cheers.] I candidly confess that I do not think that that is the way in which to approach what all must admit to be a painful international episode. There is not a man in this country who does not regret to find that we have been compelled to take these steps; there is not a man in this country who does not grieve that it has been found impossible to carry on international relations upon a sound basis with this State, to whom international law appears to be a matter of absolute indifference. So much for the intentions of the hon. Gentlemen who moved and seconded this Motion. Now, Sir, for the misunderstanding as regards the policy of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman came down to this House prepared to assume that the Government had gone to war for the bondholders

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, no!

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If he did not come down with that intention, I cannot understand how he can have so misinterpreted the speech of my noble friend who has already spoken for the Government. My noble friend said not one single word to suggest the idea that His Majesty's Government, any more than previous Ministries, have thought it the first duty of this country to adopt overt acts of hostility in order to protect the interests of the bondholders. I do not deny, in fact, I freely admit, that bondholders may occupy an international position which may require international action; but I look upon such international action with the gravest doubt and suspicion, and I doubt whether we have in the past ever gone to war for the bondholders, for those of our countrymen who have lent money to a foreign Government; and I confess I should be very sorry to see that made a practice in this country. The real crux of this difficulty has been the outrageous manner in which the Venezuelan Government, not once nor twice, but time after time, have invaded the rights of British seamen and British shipowners, have insulted our nationality, have treated English sailors and English captains as no nation in the world treats us. And, when we have remonstrated, they have not only refused us any substantial compensation, but have scarcely deigned to reply—sometimes, I believe, they have absolutely refused to reply at all. I put a plain question to those Gentlemen who have taken up the cudgels for Venezuela, and to the right hon. Gentleman opposite—"Would they have sat down indefinitely under treatment of that kind?" If they had done so, it would not have been consistent, I do not say merely with the traditions of this country, but with the practice and traditions of any civilised State, that they should tolerate, time after time, outrages of this description for which no apology was offered, no compensation given, and no explanation suggested. Such a situation is an intolerable situation, and it did require overt action on the part of His Majesty's Government. Has that action been unduly hasty in its character? As far back as July last we sent, to use a Hibernicism, our first ultimatum to the Venezuelan Government.

MR. T. M. HEALY: We never issue ultimatums.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. and learned Gentleman will recognise that, at all events, I meant no offence to his countrymen. That first ultimatum was absolutely disregarded. We went on month after month, and on the 11th of November we sent our second ultimatum, and, finally, we have been driven, after exercising boundless patience, to issue a final ultimatum. When that was disregarded, we took overt action. I do not know whether the Gentlemen sitting on the benches opposite differ from our policy. I am not sure that they do. But, whether they differ from it or not, I am perfectly confident that their patience would have been as early exhausted as ours. That is the first point I have to make. The second point I have to make turns on the question of co-operating with Germany. The last portion of the right hon. Gentleman's speech consisted of two propositions. The first was that there was nothing so much to be desired as cordial co-operation with Germany in all international matters. The second proposition he suggested was that nothing was more dangerous than co-operation with Germany, and that we had committed a great error by co-operating with Germany in this particular case.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I never said so.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon. I did not mean to misrepresent him, but if that was not the gravamen of his criticism against His Majesty's advisers I do not know what it was.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I will tell the right hon. Gentleman in two seconds. It is not only that you are co-operating with Germany, but that you have entered into such a formal arrangement and so bound yourselves to them that your independence of action is hampered.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand now. I apologise to the right hon. Gentleman. He desires to co-operate with Germany on terms peculiar to himself—terms which, I venture to say, have never been the basis of international co-operation before and never will be the basis of international co-operation in future. He thinks that the proper way to make an alliance for warlike purposes with a foreign State is to inform that State that no doubt you will fight as long as it suits you, and when it does not suit you you do not intend to go on fighting any longer. All I can say is that, when in the ordinary revolutions of public affairs the right hon. Gentleman takes an important part in deciding who our allies are to be, and on what terms we may have to carry on operations together, I can promise him he will find very few allies prepared to deal with him on the basis he has laid down. The truth is that anybody who considers the situation will see that the British Government had no alternative but to take the course they have actually done.

Let me recapitulate. In the first place, I think it will be admitted by everybody who has read the Blue-book that it was perfectly impossible for the Government of this country to tolerate the way they were treated by Venezuela, and overt action had to be taken. In the second place, Germany found herself aggrieved in a manner which also induced her to agree that overt action had to be taken. The third proposition is that we ought to co-operate with Germany in circumstances of that kind. Surely the fourth proposition is self-evident, that, if we are to co-operate with another country for common purposes, that co-operation must be based upon an understanding which binds the two allies together until the common object has been accomplished. I do not see how we are to escape from that issue of cause and consequence, and if you cannot escape from it, then this policy of the Government with regard to Venezuela is justified from beginning to end. That is all I need say on the merits of the question.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman forgive me for interrupting him? Will he kindly give an answer to the two questions I addressed to him? Namely, first, what is the nature and extent of the financial claims put forward on our part, and, secondly, what is the nature and extent of the financial claims put forward by Germany.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not admit this theory of debt collecting. That is not to me the main justification nor the main origin of these difficulties. If hon. Gentlemen will look at the Blue-book they will see that so far as we are concerned, at all events, we are prepared to agree to a tribunal by which the exact amount of the financial claims, which are less important than the other, may be assessed. As regards the German claims, of course I cannot give the right hon. Gentleman information of the same precise character.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: May I ask this—Has the German Government any claims, such as we have, on other grounds than financial debts? In other words, is this joint co-operation not to be used mainly for the purpose of collecting debts?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, I understand they have other grounds.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: What are they?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give the right hon. Gentleman the detailed information he desires to get. The only other observation I need make refers to the version which the right hon. Gentleman seeks to infer from what was said in the House of Lords this afternoon. It is a mistaken version. The right hon. Gentleman seems to be under the impression that the United States Government has made to us a suggestion of arbitration. That is not so. As the right hon. Gentleman is aware, British and German interests have been entrusted to the United States Minister in Venezuela, and that Minister has with admirable energy protected the lives of our compatriots and those of German nationality. I understand it is from Venezuela, through the United

States, that a suggestion has come for arbitration. On that I will say no more than this—that it is surely unfortunate that the Venezuelan Government should not have thought of the advantages of arbitration during the many months and years in which we have had these controversies with them; that they should have refused all answer, and all suggestion, even of apology or explanation for anything that has occurred; that they should have received the ultimatums of July, of November, of December, without condescending to take the smallest notice of our action; and that it is not until we are actually engaged in what I suppose I must describe as these hostilities that this idea of arbitration should suggest itself to their minds. Whether the idea be good or bad—as to that I say absolutely nothing—practicable or impracticable, it does not come from the United States Government: it comes from that of Venezuela.

(11.12) SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): There is one question I should like the right hon. Gentleman to answer, and that is, what are the claims of the German Government. The right hon. Gentleman says very truly that we are entered upon a common enterprise for a common object—that is, to obtain satisfaction of the claims of the British Government and the claims of the German Government. We have been told in those Papers what are the claims of the British Government, but we have no information whatever as to what are the claims of the German Government, and yet the right hon. Gentleman tells us that the engagement is that neither party shall come to an arrangement until their respective claims are fully satisfied. Surely we ought to know what are those claims of the German Government which we undertake to see satisfied before we accept any satisfaction ourselves. We are bound to maintain the claims and to see them satisfied without knowing what those claims are. That is a position in which no Minister or Government ought to be placed. When you enter into an alliance for the purpose of hostilities, both parties should come to an understanding as to what is the object, and what are the demands to be satisfied. Now the official answer of the right hon. Gentleman is that we do not really know what is the object of these hostilities as regards Germany. We only know what is the object we are pursuing. We are not told what is the object the German Government are pursuing. Surely it is not unfriendly to this Government or the German Government to ask about proceedings which may result in very serious consequences. We should be frankly told what are the engagements and what are the demands which are to be satisfied on behalf of Germany before we accept any satisfaction for ourselves. I really think the Government ought to give us some information on that subject.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich): I should like to ask, Who is the senior officer in these operations? Is it the German or the British officer? He is in rather a difficult predicament, from my point of view. In this case, if the senior officer happens to be German, and he does such things as sinking the Venezuelan hulks, which is totally opposed to the chivalrous ideas of this nation, we might be in the position of doing something to cause irritation to Germany by our refusal to sanction such action. I think, whatever we do, we ought to be most careful to cement friendly feeling with the Government of the United States. We should do nothing of any kind, sort, or description that would be in the least way provocative of irritation or animosity on the part of the United States. I should like my right hon. friend to state who is the senior officer who will be charged with the duties carried on, so far as hostilities are concerned, in Venezuelan waters.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is only by leave of the House that I can answer my noble and gallant friend. There is no question here of seniority. The German Admiral is not under the orders of the British Admiral, nor is the British Admiral under the orders of the German Admiral. No doubt they consult together and co-operate together; but the fleets are acting on different parts of the Venezuelan coast, and not as one organisation under one commander. Therefore there is no question of that seniority which, as my noble friend justly observes, might in certain circumstances land us in some difficulty. The responsibility for the action of each fleet primarily rests with its Admiral and with the country to which it belongs, and neither fleet is responsible for the action of the other.

*MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): From what has fallen from the right hon. Gentleman it would appear that the Government has plunged into this matter without asking or knowing how they are to come out of it. The despatches seem to indicate that they have not made up their minds what would follow if President Castro refused to yield. We are in a state of war, yet we do not know what for, and even after the challenges which have been addressed to them the Government do no inform us. Our claims also seem to have grown. They are formulated in Numbers 3 and 10 of the Despatches, but in these the bondholders do not come in at all. They come in as an afterthought in No. 14, and it seems to me to be a deplorable afterthought. This idea of the British Fleet being employed to collect the debts of foreign bondholders is assuredly a mistaken one. It was said by Wellington once that the British army did not exist for the purpose of collecting certain debts. It is still more true of the British Fleet that it does not exist for the purpose of collecting the debts of bondholders. People who lend money to South American Republics know what the security is and what they are likely to get in return, and they ought not to have the British Fleet at their backs. I believe, from the response that greeted some of the very powerful remarks of my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition, that this view is shared on the other side of the House. The Government do not seem to have realised the feeling with regard to Germany. It is clear from the despatches that Germany suggested joint action, and it was the German Government that suggested that neither Government should recede until the other was satisfied. We are pledged to support the German claims without knowing what they are.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): Quite the reverse is the case. Lord Lansdowne's statement will be found on page 16.

*MR. NORMAN: I am in the dilemma of either accepting the statement of the right hon. Baronet who interrupts me, or that of the Prime Minister. Under the circumstances I accept the statement of the Prime Minister, who said that he was not aware what the German claims were. Are German aims and objects in South Africa identical with our own? There is a good deal of doubt on that matter in the United States. Is our Government quite sure that they see eye to eye, while they are walking step by step, with Germany? That seems to me to be a question on which every legitimate doubt can be felt. Is it not conceivable that certain developments might be at the same time extremely pleasing to Germany and extremely displeasing to this country? Already one example of different methods of thought and action has suggested itself. According to the despatches exchanged the naval officers of the two countries were pledged to seize the Venezuelan ships and hold them; but we have information that the Germans not only seized but destroyed ships. With regard to the position of the United States the most important point is the great weight public opinion has there. It is certain that the action of the United States Government will be scrupulously correct and friendly to this country; but the American Government is peculiarly susceptible to public opinion, and public opinion may from one week to another take a much keener interest in this matter, which may make the position more serious for this country. I speak with some confidence, for I happened to be in Washington, and was pretty well acquainted with the state of feeling in America during the negotiations in regard to a previous Venezuelan dispute. If arbitration has been offered it must be the obvious duty of this country to accept it; and they ought to be thankful for such a very good way of getting out of the difficulty. But, if arbitration has not been offered, then there is every reason why this country should approach the United States with a view to securing it.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said that the Government had not given the House any information on what he considered was a most important subject—viz., whether the owners, officers and crew of these vessels were supposed to be guilty of smuggling or any other crime. If there was no suspicion of that kind there could be no two opinions in the House as to the propriety of the action of the Government. If there was no possibility that these British subjects were lawbreakers, if without any provocation British vessels were seized, and their crews put into prison, then this country ought to act promptly and vigorously. On the contrary, if we in this country claimed the right to suppress smuggling, so did the Venezuelan Government, and we should not claim that British subjects caught smuggling there should be treated in a different way from that which would be given to the subjects of any other nation if they indulged here in malpractices. The right hon. Gentleman asked whether it was tolerable that half the passengers and crew of a trading steamer should be taken prisoners, and the cargo seized, while the remainder of the passengers and crew had fled into the woods where there was neither food nor water. The whole question depended on whether they were smugglers or not. The mere fact that half the passengers and crew had taken refuge in the wood raised a suspicion that they had been breaking the law. The same applied to vessels supposed to have been carrying contraband of war to the insurgents. This Government ought to be most particular to see that none of its subjects were permitted to interfere in any shape or form with the internal peace and order of other countries; and if they did that, either by freebooting raids, or by smuggling arms, that they could not be protected by this country. The very foundations to enable hon. Members to give a reasonable judgment on the question seemed completely wanting. Surely a dispute of this kind should have been referred to arbitration, and the Venezuelan fleet ought not to have been taken possession of. The Venezuelan Government sought refuge in the fact that no compensation had been given for the action of the "Ban Righ," and said that until the matter of the "Ban Righ" was settled, they declined to listen to the representations of the British Government. That meant that the Venezuelan Government considered that they had a prior claim to this Government on account of some action of the "Ban Righ." He thought the House ought to have some fuller information in regard to the facts of the case. The noble Lord made an excuse for the Papers not being delivered in time on the ground that the Government were hoping that some accommodation would be arrived at. That need not have prevented the House getting earlier information than they had. He noticed that the Admiralty were communicated with in August, and told that matters were coming to an important stage. The entire correspondence ought to have been ready to put into the hands of hon. Members at the same time as the ultimatum was delivered—not before, as was the case under the new diplomacy in the Transvaal and the defence of which had been that it carried the public opinion of this country along with the Government.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the right hon. Gentleman the member for South Aberdeen, who was so well acquainted with United States politics, had told the House that it was because of the existence of the Irish vote in America that we had been driven into this curious arrangement with Germany. German emigrants in America were always in favour of their own people in cases of dispute with the United States, and the German Government could rely on the support of that sentiment. But, whenever the American Government was dealing with England, it knew that the whole weight of Irish sentiment would be thrown against England. Accordingly, in this matter, England had to go hat in hand to Germany, who had no grievances of prestige to redress as England had, to get the United States to allow this inroad to be made on the Monroe doctrine in Venezuela. The right hon. Gentleman said that Venezuela had rejected arbitration; but who gave that country that bad precedent? It was Lord Salisbury; but before long America was irritated by that high-handed action, and then followed the Cleveland incident. In the same way the high-handed manner in which Germany had seized two Venezuelan vessels—which were worth probably ten times the amount of their monetary claims—and sent them to the bottom of the sea, had roused irritation in America. Was it to be imagined that the American people would go on tolerating that conduct indefinitely? The President of the United States would be looking out for a second term of office. Everything in America was decided on by political issues; and soon the Democrats would be beating the Democratic gong, and President Roosevelt would be asked if he were not as good a man for the Monroe doctrine as Mr. Cleveland. He expressed no opinion on the merits of the quarrel; but he warned the Government that they were in a risky and perilous position, having regard to politics in the United States, and the enmity of a large body of men of Irish blood, driven from their country by British laws.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON said that an hon. Member had stated that Lord Salisbury had persistently refused arbitration in regard to certain former claims against Venezuela. That was not the case. The difficulty of submitting these claims to arbitration was that there was no basis of reference which we could accept consistently with the undoubted rights of this country. When a basis of arbitration was proposed by the United States Government which was consistent with our national position, arbitration was resorted to, and resulted in the concession of nearly all the claims for which Great Britain contended. He thought it would be most unfortunate and inconsistent with the practice of this House if an impression were made to prevail that the action of His Majesty's Government was not being supported by the House and the country, when the Government were making claims in satisfaction of the just rights of British subjects. He would remind the House that, not many years since, Her late Majesty's Government was compelled to resort to a naval demonstration in Venezuelan waters for outrages committed on British subjects, and that, following that demonstration, the Venezuelan Government made the necessary concessions.

(11.25.) MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye) said England and Germany were not the only two Powers which had claims against Venezuela. Within the last few hours Italy had entered into the field on account of a debt of £12,000. Could the Prime Minister inform the House whether any arrangement in regard to common, or concerted action had been made between this country and any other country besides Germany ? If so, the arrangement would become very complicated, for it was obvious that the claims might be of a very different character. The British claims were for aggression against British persons and property. The main claim of Germany was financial, and the claim of Italy was of a purely financial character. If we were to bind ourselves to other countries in the same way as we had bound ourselves to Germany, it would be absolutely impossible for us to obtain satisfaction for our claims unless at the same time claims of a very different character by Germany, Italy, and possibly other powers were settled ; and in that way the settlement of our claims might be postponed indefinitely.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I understand that the Italians are sending a ship, but there is no agreement like that which exists between us and Germany.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) said he most heartily supported the action of the Government in bringing whatever pressure was necessary to bear on the Venezuelan Governmen t tosettle these claims ; but he ventured to express disagreement both with the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the House in their view that it was desirable in this particular instance that we should co-operate with Germany. He did not deny the general proposition, though it was a good thing to work with other Powers in as friendly a way as possible ; but from a long experience in the United States he was constrained to express the belief that it was a serious mistake on our part to co-operate with Germany in bringing pressure to bear on Venezuela. If we had claims against the Venezuelan Government, surely this country was big enough and strong enough to enforce them without the assistance of Germany or any other Power. We ought to have more fully considered the great jealousy there was in the United States with regard to Germany and German aspirations, or supposed aspirations, in South America, before we entered into this joint action and appeared before the people of the United States as an ally of Germany in enforcing these claims. It had created a very bad impression in the United States that we should not be acting alone. United States opinion would never have allowed Germany to have undertaken independent action against a South American State, and Germany, knowing this, had astutely cajoled us into a partnership, and thus was able to use us as a buffer between her and American public opinion. He hoped the arrangement with Germany would be restricted to what was absolutely necessary to meet the British claim, and that we should not be bound to the chariot wheels of Germany in whatever action she might be inclined [to take of a more drastic character.

*MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said that before the Motion was withdrawn he would like to urge that this, of all questions he had ever heard of, was one for arbitration. He had listened to the whole of the debate, and felt pleased that so many of the speakers had recommended arbitration. He hoped that this country would even go so far as to propose arbitration, and not be deterred from doing so by fear of being charged with climbing down. We were a great Power and could afford to be magnanimous to a little one. It was not long since France had similar claims against Venezuela for damages. The disputed claims were submitted to arbitration, and the points at issue were amicably settled. Surely we might follow the example which had been set us by such a high-spirited nation as France and settle all matters in dispute between the British Government and the Government of Venezuela by arbitration. He did not care whether the amount of the claims was large or small; or whether the vessels sunk by the Germans were good, bad, or indifferent; it was clear that the matters in dispute might assume such an aggravated form as would lead this country into conflict not only with Venezuela but with the United States. Now was the time to stop the growth of the unfortunate ill-feeling which existed; and he would urge most strenuously on the Government to refer the matter to arbitration as speedily as possible.

MR. SCHWANN said, having received the information he required, he asked leave to withdraw the Motion. [Several HON. MEMBERS: No, no.]

Question put, and negatived.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Education (England and Wales) Bill, with Amendments.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 309.]

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [10th November], "That Mr. SPEAKER do now leave the Chair for Committee on East India Revenue Accounts." — (*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved,

That it appears by the Accounts laid before this House, that the total revenue of India for the year ending on the 31st March, 1901, was £75,272,291, and that the total expenditure in India and in England charged against revenue was £73,602,087; that there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £1,670,204; and that the capital outlay on Railways and Irrigation Works not charged against revenue was £4,040,958. —(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Resolution to be reported.

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 16*th December*, 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2922. Portugal (Province of St Thomé and Principe). Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SEAMEN'S SAVINGS BANKS, MONEY ORDERS, AND TRANSMISSION OF WAGES.

Account of all deposits received and repaid by the Board of Trade, under the authority of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, during the year ended 20th November 1901, and of the interest thereon. Statement showing the number and amount of seamen's money orders issued and paid, at ports in the United Kingdom and at ports abroad, from 1855 to 31st March 1902. Also, statement showing the receipts and payments in connection with the transmission of seamen's wages, home and foreign, from 1878 to 31st March, 1902.

GENERAL LIGHTHOUSE FUND.

An account of the General Lighthouse Fund, showing the income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 1902. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

VENEZUELA—ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL ACTION.

Earl SPENCER: I rise to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in the event of the seizure of Venezuelan gunboats failing to produce the desired effect, His Majesty's Government propose to take further measures for the purpose of coercing the Venezuelan Government; and, if so, whether he is able to state what the nature of those measures will be.

*__The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS__ (the Marquess of Lansdowne): In the event which the noble Lord supposes, further measures of coercion will, no doubt, be inevitable. The question has been considered by His Majesty's Government, in consultation with the German Government; and it has been decided, as I think will be evident from the general tenor of the Blue-book, to resort to a blockade of the Venezuelan ports, some of which will be blockaded by British and some by German ships of war. It is not, however, intended to land a British force, and still less to occupy Venezuelan territory.

LONDON WATER BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order).

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) said there were a number of Amendments on the Paper in his name, but with only two exceptions they dealt purely with points of drafting. When they came to those two Amendments he would make a short statement explaining them.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH moved to leave out the latter part of sub-Section 6 of Clause 9 (which deals with the transfer of the undertaking of the New River Company to the Water Board), in order to insert a new sub-Section. He said that the New River Company was different from all other companies in that the property was vested in the owners of the Adventurers' and King's shares, and that the Company only administered the property for the owners. The transfer of the undertaking would convert property which was now realty into personalty, and that change would work hardship in certain possible cases. The Clause as originally introduced proposed that the shares and water stock issued should be treated as land; but it had been objected that that form of Clause would impress the character of real property on the stock for all time. The object of the Amendment was to limit the time during which the stock should hold that character, and the limit proposed was the appointed day, and such time afterwards as elapsed before the property passed naturally into the hands of someone who was entitled to dispose of it. There could be no doubt as to the franchise question being covered by the Clause

Amendment moved,—

"In Clause 9, page 7, line 32, to leave out from 'section' to the end of the sub-Section, and to insert as a new sub-Section: (7.) Every Adventurers' share and every King's

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

share, and every part of an Adventurers' or King's share, and any water stock issuable or issued in respect of any such share or part of a share, and the right to receive any such water stock shall—(i) until the appointed day; and (ii) after the appointed day, but thereafter only unless or until—(*a*) some person who is *sui juris* is absolutely entitled beneficially in possession to or has a general power to dispose of such share or part of a share, or such water stock; or (*b*) such share or part of a share, or such water stock or the right to receive such water stock, is transferred on a sale to a purchaser for all purposes of disposition, transmission, and devolution, be considered as land, and (so far as regards such water stock or right to receive water stock) be held for and go to the same persons in the same manner and for and on the same estates, interests, and trusts as the Adventurers' or King's share, or the part of an Adventurers' or King's share, in respect of which the water stock is issuable or issued, would have been held and have gone under any will, settlement, or other instrument affecting that share or part of a share, or otherwise, if this Act had not been passed. For the purposes of this provision the expression 'general power' includes every power or authority enabling the donee or other holder thereof to appoint or dispose of the fee simple or absolute interest of or in property in possession as he thinks fit, but exclusively of any power exercisable in a fiduciary capacity or exercisable as tenant for life under the Settled Land Acts, 1882 to 1890, or as mortgagee.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD COLERIDGE said that the new Clause entirely met all objections, and, while saving existing rights, prevented the infinite multiplication of this franchise in future.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH moved to insert a new sub-Section in Clause 43 (payment of dividends till discharge of compensation). He said that the object of the Amendment was to meet the case of the Kent Company, the proprietors of which had the right, if the maximum dividend was not paid in any year, to have the arrears made up in subsequent years. The Amendment provided that the proprietors should not receive more than ten per cent. on the capital between the appointed day and the date of satisfaction. That period of time would, he hoped, be a short one, but it had been suggested, to remove all possibility of dispute, that this proviso should be inserted, and he believed it was a matter of agreement.

Amendment moved.

"In Clause 43, page 28, line 30, after 'that' to insert, '(*a*) if the amount payable in any year under this section to any company exceeds the amount which, by reason of any limitation on the dividend of that company, would have been distributable as dividend if this Act had not been passed, the excess shall not be paid to the company; and (*b*),"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments to Clauses 45 and 47 agreed to.

Drafting Amendment to Second Schedule agreed to.

On Schedule 3 (constitution and proceedings of Water Board:—

LORD COLERIDGE proposed to amend Section 3 in order to provide that a director of a metropolitan water company or a shareholder being himself beneficially interested in the share or shares standing in his name shall, until the compensation payable to the company is determined, be disqualified from being appointed or being a member of the Water Board. He said it seemed to him that the persons who were to enter into this contract should be without beneficial interest in it on one side or the other. This principle was carried through all their legislation. For instance, a licensing justice who might hold only one share in a brewery company at the other side of England was disqualified from acting as a licensing justice. Surely, it was only right, therefore, that no member of the Water Board should be a shareholder in any one of the companies which were to be purchased. They might be honest persons enough, but they could not be held to be indifferent to the interests of the Water Companies of which they were shareholders. By only disqualifying a director, the Clause held out an encouragement to large shareholders to come forward for election on the Board. The Amendment would not affect trustees, and he hoped the noble Lord in charge of the Bill would accept it.

Amendment moved—

"In the Third Schedule, page 35, line 24, after 'director' to insert 'or shareholder.' "—(*Lord Coleridge.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said he agreed generally that it was not right that people on public boards should deal with matters in which they had a private interest. The Section disqualified a director, and the noble Lord sought to disqualify the shareholders also. That Amendment was unnecessary, because sub-Section (*c*) of Section 2 provided that a shareholder in any company should not vote at any meeting of the Board on any question in which such company was interested. He could not think it was necessary, in the case of a shareholder who might hold only a single share, to disqualify him from a seat on the Board. That would be carrying a sound principle much too far. The provision in the Bill went as far as was reasonable in the matter.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

EARL CARRINGTON called attention to the fact that there was no provision in the Bill for the retirement of a Joint Committee, and moved that the election of the members of Joint Committees be triennial. Unless some Amendment of this kind were inserted, the members would, he imagined, be elected for life.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the Joint Committee would only have the one function of electing a member to the Water Board. After it had done that, there would be no object in keeping the Joint Committee alive.

EARL CARRINGTON submitted that as the Schedule at present stood the Joint Committee, when once elected, remained in office. No provision whatever was made for retirement.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said it was intended to deal with this matter by regulation prepared by the Local Government Board. It was distinctly intended that the Joint Committees should have a terminable period of existence. He would not pledge himself that it would be three years—it might be convenient that they should be elected for three and a half or four years—but their tenure of office would be for a limited period.

EARL CARRINGTON said he gladly accepted the noble Lord's assurance that power was taken by the Local Government Board to regulate this matter. But would the noble Lord insert the words "and term of office" after the word "constitution" in the Section which provided that the Local Government Board might make regulations as to the constitution of the Water Board? That would make the matter perfectly clear.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said he was anxious to meet the noble Lord as far as possible, and, although he was doubtful as to the necessity of the suggested Amendment, he would accept it on condition that the noble Lord would not think the Amendment was not adhered to by the Government in another place.

Amendment [of Lord Carrington's] agreed to.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. suspended.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD WELBY inquired what the effect would be of the Amendment moved by the noble Lord on Report inserting, in Clause 9, page 7, line 8, after "agreement," the words "made in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of this Act."

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said that Clause 9 provided that the compensation to the New River Company for the transfer of their undertaking should be discharged wholly in water stock, and should, in default of agreement, be determined by arbitration. Section 2 directed that any agreement for the transfer of the undertaking of the Company should require confirmation by the Court of Arbitration. The object of the Amendment was to make it clear that this would apply to an agreement under the first-named Section, so that there would be no dispute as to the necessity for confirmation.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 3 with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons; and to be printed as amended (No. 204.)

MILITIA AND YEOMANRY BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment.

Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. suspended.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (the EARL of HARDWICKE: In asking your Lordships to allow this Bill to be read a third time, I desire to answer a question that was put to me last night by Lord Hertford, and to which the noble Lord attached great importance. The question was whether the duration of the Yeomanry training was to be seventeen or fourteen days. The new regulations provide that the regimental training will take place between 21st May and 30th September during sixteen consecutive days, exclusive of day of arrival and dismissal, but there is a Regulation which provides that commanding officers may grant leave to officers and yeomen during the regimental training for a period not exceeding two days. Therefore the difficulty which the noble Lord referred to of men being required to serve into the third week does not arise, as the commanding officer in such a case can grant them the two days leave necessary to bring their term of training into two weeks.

Bill read 3ª (according to Order) and passed.

TRAINING OF CADET CORPS AND BATTALIONS.

THE EARL OF MEATH: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether their attention has been called to a speech delivered at Pietermaritzberg, in Natal, on the 4th December 1900, in which Field Marshal Earl Roberts said—

> "It gave him great pleasure to learn that everybody in the Colony was compelled, at one time or another, to join the corps and learn the principle of discipline and how to shoot, should, unhappily, the occasion ever arise for them to do so. This was an excellent idea, and he would like to see the example followed throughout Great Britain and Greater Britain."

And whether Lord Roberts added—

> "I hope the Old Country will follow the example of one of her children, and insist upon all boys joining cadet corps. I understand some of you have already been drafted into volunteer corps which have been engaged in the war. I can tell you that these corps have rendered magnificent service."

Also to the evidence given by Lieut.-General Sir Ian Hamilton before a Royal Commission at Edinburgh, on the 19th September 1902.

> "That if our boys were taught to handle arms, use the bayonet, march, skirmish, shoot, etc., they would be a great addition to our military strength. Young Boers between the ages of twelve and fifteen were little vipers, and had sent many a good man to his long account. In their native land boys of fifteen would make excellent soldiers. . . . . After fourteen years, he would approve of a cadet corps being attached to every school."

Also to the following General Order issued by General Lord Dundonald—who had special opportunities for studying the cadet system in Natal—on being placed in command of the Defence Forces in Canada:—

> "The General Officer Commanding desires to impress upon all officers commanding districts and regiments the desirability of encouraging in every way the formation of cadet companies or battalions throughout these districts."

And whether, in view of the above strong expressions of expert opinion as to the importance to the country of encouraging cadet corps and battalions, they will be prepared to consent to the following proposals, or to any of them, and, if so, to which, made to the Secretary of State for War on the 25th November 1902, by the Lads' Drill Association, the Reverend C. G. Gull, Head Master of the Grocers' School, and by officers commanding cadet battalions and corps:

1. That authority be granted for the formation of Public School Junior Volunteer Corps, in which uniform shall not be obligatory, but which in all other respects shall be on the same footing as cadet corps.
2. That the arms fitted with Morris Tubes at present supplied to public schools on payment be issued free.
3. That to junior volunteer corps as above defined D. P. arms be issued if applied for by the Commanding Officer in addition to the arms fitted with Morris Tubes.
4. That a free issue of Morris Tube ammunition be made to such corps on the same scale as is now made to cadet corps in public schools.
5. That the allowance now made to Volunteers attending camp should be made to all members of cadet battalions and companies.

6. That travelling expenses to and from camp should be sanctioned to cadet battalions and companies under the same conditions as to Volunteers.

7. That where the range accommodation possible for any cadet battalion or company necessitates a journey by rail the expenses should be borne by Government.

8. That officers in cadet battalions and companies who have duly qualified as such shall be eligible for the grant for uniform on the same scale as now sanctioned for Volunteer officers.

9. That an amount in the case of cadet battalions shall be provided to meet the pay of a sergeant major, and, in the case of cadet battalions of more than six companies, of one sergeant instructor.

10. That paragraph 37 of the Volunteer Regulations be modified so that cadet officers shall occupy in regard to Volunteer officers the same position that the latter hold in respect of Militia officers, namely, junior of their rank.

11. That Militia officers appointed to cadet battalions take rank according to the date of their appointment to such battalion.

12. That sanction shall be given for the enrolment of cadets in cadet companies on the same conditions as now hold good for cadet corps.

13. That serviceable arms shall be served out to the full establishment of cadet battalions and not to 60 per cent. as at present.

These are not very formidable requests, nor do I think it can be said that, if granted, they will seriously affect the finances of the country. The Secretary of State for War, in an official account that was sent to the Press of the interview which, on November 25th, he granted to the deputation mentioned in my Question, is reported to have said that the policy of His Majesty's Government in regard to Reserve forces was rather in the direction of efficiency than of numbers. That is a very excellent and laudable desire. I readily admit that efficiency with moderate numbers is more valuable than large numbers without efficiency. So far as I am concerned, I certainly have no desire to increase numbers at the expense of efficiency. I would be no party to any such policy of national suicide. On the other hand, with the experience of the South African war in our minds, can it honestly be said that the country, within the last three years, has found itself in the position of having at command too many soldiers? I think I remember a time, not so far distant, when the Government were straining every nerve to get men to come forward, and could not get trained men even though they offered five shillings a day. I do not think, therefore, that it is possible, even with the shortest of memories, for His Majesty's Government to assert that there are too many trained men at their command anxious and desirous for military service. The modern theory of military preparedness is that the country should possess a small efficient Army, capable of very rapid expansion. Now, the cadet system, in conjunction with a small efficient Army, exactly fulfils that condition. It provides immense reserves without the drawbacks of conscription. In modern warfare with civilised nations, one cannot separate the nation from the Army or the Army from the nation; the two must either stand or fall together. That has been proved often in the case of what may be called, comparatively speaking, small continental and oversea wars. The proposals contained in my Question all tend towards efficiency, and not towards a mere increase of numbers, and, therefore, they ought to be entirely in accord with the policy of His Majesty's Government, as expressed by the Secretary of State for War in November last. I trust, therefore, that the answer which I shall receive later on will be a favourable one.

In order accurately to appreciate the object and scope of these proposals, it is necessary to thoroughly understand the technical terms used in regard to cadets. The proposals do not affect in any way organisations such as the Church Lads' Brigade or the Boys' Brigade, which are supported for the moral, spiritual, and physical welfare of the lads who join them, and are in no sense military organisations. The rganisations to which these proposals refer are strictly military, and are known by the names of cadet corps, cadet battalions, and cadet companies. Of these organisations there are in all 112, and of that number 101 are cadet corps, composed of lads belonging to the upper and middle classes who are at public schools. These 101 corps, with the exception of Eton and Harrow, are attached to local adult Volunteer battalions. The lads are permitted to join them at the age of twelve years, and when they attain the age of seventeen, they are eligible for the Government capitation grant which is given to every efficient Volunteer. Until recently, the capitation grant went to the benefit of the Volunteer adult battalion, to which the cadet corps was connected, but by a recent concession, the money gained by these lads now goes to the cadet corps attached to the school.

EARL SPENCER: With the exception of Eton and Harrow.

THE EARL OF MEATH: Yes, with those two exceptions. These 101 corps, being composed of the sons of well-to-do parents, do not require, and do not demand, pecuniary assistance to any great amount, and I do not know that they desire any at the hands of His Majesty's Government. Therefore 101 corps out of the 112 do not ask anything from His Majesty's Government. But there are a larger number of public schools attended by the sons of respectable, if not well-to-do parents, who are unwilling or unable to provide their sons with the luxury of a uniform. They can manage to give them a good education, but consider that membership of a cadet corps is a luxury which they cannot afford. Consequently, there are a large number of lads belonging to the middle classes who have no opportunity of preparing themselves in any way for the military service of the country. The Lads' Drill Association, the head-master of the Grocers' School, and officers commanding cadet battalions and corps have therefore approached His Majesty's Government and asked whether they would permit corps to be formed in connection with these schools in which uniform should not be obligatory. They desire, also, that a free gift of arms should be made to them, and that they should have as much free ammunition as is at present given to the corps belonging to the richer public schools. These are not very great demands, and I trust that something may be done by His Majesty's Government to facilitate the training of those youths of the middle class, many of whom might attain a liking for the military profession and become very valuable officers in His Majesty's service. I have dealt with those corps which are formed of lads attending the upper middle-class schools.

I now come to those organisations which are called cadet battalions, of which there are only nine throughout the whole kingdom—four in London and five in the provinces. They are composed exclusively of working lads, who must be fourteen years of age before they are permitted to join them. They are not connected with Volunteer battalions, but are independent organisations, although they take their place in the territorial system. How is it that throughout the United Kingdom there are only nine of these battalions, which ought to be a great deal more numerous than the cadet corps? It is simply because they are expensive organisations, and the parents of the lads are unable to provide their uniforms and the other expenses. These corps are dependent on voluntary subscriptions; they are largely maintained by the officers, and great difficulty has been experienced in finding men sufficiently well off to become officers in these battalions. Each lad costs from £2 to £5 per head, according to what the commanding officer considers necessary in the shape of equipment, but £2 is, I believe, ample for the purpose. The organisations are far too costly ever to be numerous without State assistance, and five out of the thirteen proposals which I have laid before His Majesty's Government refer to these battalions. If we are ever to have our youth properly trained, and trained in any large numbers, it will have to be accomplished by means of these battalions. There is one other organisation, called cadet companies. There are only two companies throughout the United Kingdom, for the same reason that they are composed of working lads, and that it is impossible for the parents of those lads to find the necessary money. Like the cadet corps, they are connected with adult Volunteer battalions, and without State assistance they cannot possibly be increased.

As I have said, the cadet corps, battalions, and companies together number 112, of which 101 ask for no assistance, but only for encouragement; the remaining eleven are bodies which need financial help. Of the thirteen proposals on the Paper, five entail no expense at all on His Majesty's Government. Last year, when the late Lord Frankfort de Montmorency introduced the Military Instruction (Schools and Cadets) Bill, Lord Raglan, who was then Under Secretary of State for War, asserted that cadet corps and battalions did not directly add to the defensive and offensive power of the kingdom, and that was his argument why no assistance should be given. Is it possible, notwithstanding the sad experiences we have gone through in South Africa, that his Majesty's Government think that no one can be counted as taking a really effective part in the defence of his country unless he is found in a Line regiment and actually drilled in the barrack square? We all know that if it had not been for the services of the Yeomanry and the Volunteers, both of the Mother Country and of the Colonies, many of whom had received at least a half-training, and many a great deal more, in their youth, we should have found ourselves in a much more difficult position, and in all probability the war would still be going on at the present moment. The cadet corps do not provide a large number of the rank and file of the Army. It is not to be expected that they should, because they are recruited from the upper and middle classes. But they do provide a large proportion of officers, and the cadet battalions provide, in proportion to their numbers, a very considerable number of rank and rifle. The colonel commanding the cadet battalion of the King's Royal Rifles informs me that 92 per cent. of his lads, on leaving him, join the Army, Navy, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, and that actually ninety-eight of his old lads, or 20 per cent., served His Majesty in South Africa. He confesses that the average from his battalion is higher than the average if you take all the nine battalions; but, taking the average of the nine battalions, you will find that 14 per cent. of the lads go to the Army and the Militia, 3 per cent. to the Navy, and 65 per cent. to the Yeomanry and the Volunteers, a total of 82 per cent. I think, after these very striking figures, it cannot be asserted that cadet battalions do not directly contribute towards the rank and file of the Army. I hope, therefore, that I shall hear no more of the kind of argument used by Lord Raglan.

I cannot, for the life of me, understand why His Majesty's Government should hesitate for one moment in encouraging and supporting the training to arms of the youth of this country. It cannot be denied that during the war men were sent out who could not shoot, who never made the least profession of being able to shoot, and who had probably never seen a gun before in their lives. Over and over again there were cases where untrained men were sent to South Africa who proved absolutely useless, and had to be sent back without ever having done anything in return for the heavy expenditure incurred upon them. On the other hand, we all know what splendid service Lovat's Scouts performed. These men were not men who were found in the barrack yard, or who had been in the Regular Army; they were men who in their youth had been trained to scout and shoot and look after themselves. They were notoriously the eyes and ears of the force with which they were connected, and it cannot be denied that if we train our you the in a somewhat similar way they would be of very much more service in time of stress than lads who had never used a gun. I am not asking for any largep ecuniary assistance for cadets. If your Lordships look through the proposals on the Paper you will see that the sums needed are comparatively small; but, if I were asking for large pecuniary assistance, I should have the greatest confidence in doing so, because I should feel that we were obtaining for our money a sense of security which would be invaluable. If it had been known in 1898 and 1899 that the lads of this country had gone through a course of training which enabled them to shoot straight, and to march and scout, I am perfectly certain that we should never have had a Boer war. There is an idea throughout the Continent that Great Britain is a powerful Colossus in some directions, but a Colossus with legs of clay, the clay being the want of military defence. That has been proved to be a fallacious idea. It has been proved, over and over again, that Great Britain has such resources that it has been able to contend against almost the whole world in arms. But, at the same time, there is sufficient truth in the idea to invite attack. But if we trained our youth to arms, and if it were known that our lads had had such a training and could shoot straight, we should not hear so much of rumours of war, and I believe firmly that we should be respected in a way perhaps that we are not now, and that we should be spared the expenditure of millions and millions of money.

We are set a splendid example in this direction by our Colonies, throughout the whole of which the cadet system is almost general. The value of the training given in our Colonies has been proved by the splendid services rendered to the Empire by the Colonial troops. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales said in December, 1901, at the Guildhall—

> "I am anxious to refer to an admirable movement which has taken strong root both in Australia and New Zealand, namely, the establishment of cadet corps. I had the gratification of seeing march past several thousand cadets who, at the expense of their respective Governments, are able to go through a military course, in some cases with an ample grant of ammunition. I will not presume, in these days of Army reform, to do more than call the attention of my friend the Secretary of State for War to this interesting fact."

In New South Wales the Government give a capitation grant to cadets, and annually 30,000 lads are trained and turned out fit to defend the Colony, and, if necessary, assist the Empire in offensive and defensive operations. In Victoria, until the recent financial crisis, every effective cadet received ten shillings per head, and, in addition, from £3 to £10 per corps was given by the Government. Rifles, as well as ammunition and camp equipment, were given free, and free railway tickets to ranges were also provided. In South Australia, Tasmania, and Queensland the system has been established, and is popular and progressive. In New Zealand, too, the cadet system has been received with enthusiasm. Arms and accoutrements are given free by the Government, and in no part of His Majesty's Empire has the movement been more taken up than by the Maories. In Natal compulsory service is the order of the day as regards lads, although I doubt whether there is one lad in ten who knows that it is compulsory. From the ages of six to ten, every lad has to be drilled; at the age of ten he is compelled to join a cadet corps, and when he reaches the age of fourteen he is compelled to go to the butts to learn to shoot. Can it be said that Natal would have made such a grand defence if it had not been for the fact that her sons had had this military training? Natal spends between £3,500 and £4,000 a year in this way.

I have quoted the opinions of Lord Roberts, of General Lord Dundonald, and of Lieut.-General Sir Ian Hamilton. If I had not felt that it would have unnecessarily added to the already lengthy extracts quoted, I should have given also the opinion of Lord Kitchener, but I think his opinion is well known. I trust that after this expression of expert opinion His Majesty's Government will take courage and grant the very moderate and economical proposals for the improvement of the cadet system of this country for which I ask—proposals which although they fall short of the steps taken by our Colonies, will not, if granted, be without effect in strengthening the military power of the Empire.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: My Lords, the noble Earl stated in his concluding remarks that he hoped His Majesty's Government would take courage. I can assure him that I feel the necessity of courage to reply to the formidable looking question which he has addressed to me, and I do not think any of your Lordships can recollect ever having seen so long a question put to any member of the Government. The noble Earl asks, in the first place, whether the attention of His Majesty's Government has been called to certain observations by Lord Roberts, Sir Ian Hamilton, and Lord Dundonald. I do not know exactly whether the noble Earl asks if these speeches have been the subject of Departmental Minutes or have been circulated to the Cabinet, or whether he desires to know if the fact that the speeches have been made is within the knowledge of my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War. If that is all he wishes to know, the answer is in the affirmative. I can go further and tell the noble Earl that everything that Lord Roberts said in the speech referred to, and, I believe, everything that Sir Ian Hamilton and Lord Dundonald said, they believe now, and in similar circumstances would repeat them again. But if Lord Roberts or Sir Ian Hamilton were asked whether they consider that the training of these cadets is of such vital importance that part of the sums allocated by Parliament to the expenditure on the Army should be taken to meet the demands made by the noble Earl, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that they would declare that they could not recommend such a course. Of course, if the resources of the Exchequer were unlimited, and if in peace time we could spend as much money as we liked on the Army, I am sure we should be most willing to meet, as far as possible, the requests of the noble Earl. The noble Earl suggests that the requests he makes for assistance from the Government do not involve a very large expenditure. I shall endeavour, in the course of my remarks, to show the noble Earl, and, I hope, to convince him, that he is not entirely accurate.

Reference was made to the system which prevails in the Colonies, and the encouragement which is given to cadet corps there. I would ask the noble Earl to allow me to call his attention to the difference in the military expenditure per head of population in the Colonies compared to the military expenditure per head of the population in this country. So far as the Colonies are concerned, they have practically no naval expenditure; on the other hand, we have a very large naval expenditure. Canada has no naval expenditure at all, and her military expenditure is 2s. per head of the population. New South Wales has a naval expenditure of 8¼d., and a military expenditure of 3s. 5d.; Victoria has a naval expenditure of 1s., and a military expenditure of 3s. 3d.; Queensland has a naval expenditure of 1s. 1d., and a military expenditure of 3s. 9d.; the Cape of Good Hope has a naval expenditure of 3¼d., and a military expenditure of 2s. 11d.; Natal has a naval expenditure of 3¼d., and a military expenditure of 5s. 1¾d. In this country we have a military expenditure of 14s. 1¾d. per head of the population, and a naval expenditure of 15s.; so that altogether we pay £1 9s. 1¾d. per head of the population in respect of naval and military expenditure, whereas no Colony pays more than Natal, which pays 5s. 5d. I do not think it is quite a sound argument for the noble Earl to advance that, because the Colonies have these cadet corps, therefore it is perfectly easy for us to spend the same amount of money and give the same encouragement. The noble Earl mentioned a Bill that was introduced last session and referred to the arguments that were advanced by my noble friend and predecessor in office, Lord Raglan, against that Bill; and he stated that my noble friend replied that the Government did not consider that cadet corps could be looked upon as valuable for the defence of the country. That, of course, is perfectly true, and I support my noble friend Lord Raglan in what he said. The amount of money which this country spends on the Volunteers is gigantic, and I would like to give the House a few figures. The Volunteers, however, are men who are valuable in the event of an emergency arising. But no one suggests for a moment that these little boys should take up arms like the Boers in South Africa.

THE EARL OF MEATH: I suppose they will grow.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I suppose they will. But the point I wish to make is that in the system of this country we spend an enormous sum of money on the Volunteers, and if we were to treat cadet corps on exactly the same lines——

THE EARL OF MEATH: I do not ask that.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: With the exception of the capitation grant, I do not see a single point in which it differs. The general proposal is to place cadet corps on the same basis as Volunteers. In 1869 the Volunteers received a cash grant of £1·32; in 1899 it was £3·13; and at the present moment each Volunteer is costing £6 per head per annum. We are paying in cash, exclusive of rifles, permanent staff, and such like expenditure, £720,000 per annum for the Volunteers, whereas ten years ago we were only paying about half that amount. I think the noble Earl will admit that we have done a great deal towards encouraging the Volunteers; and if he will allow me to take his points seriatim, I think I shall be able to show that the cost involved by his proposals is by no means small. The noble Earl asks that authority be granted for the formation of Public School Junior Volunteer corps, in which uniform should not be obligatory, but which in all other respects shall be on the same footing as cadet corps. I admit that that question has very little financial effect. I believe that the only additional cost would be the charges for the instruction of such officers as might be granted commissions. But we have always understood that one of the inducements to boys to join these cadet corps was the uniform. If, however, the noble Earl is convinced that a uniform is not required, and that boys would be induced to join these corps if they were allowed to do so without the wearing of uniform being obligatory, I see no reason why the Secretary of State should not grant the request.

The noble Earl referred to the deputation which waited upon the Secretary of State for War in November last. Since that deputation was received careful consideration has been, and is being given, to the points which were laid before the Secretary of State, but it is quite impossible tonight for me to give any definite answer as to what we may be able to do. I think, however, I am able to give a definite answer as to what we shall not be able to do, but though I am able to give the noble Earl a certain amount of encouragement I hope he will not take anything I may say as binding, but merely as our ideas as to the assistance which can be given these corps in the future. The second request submitted by the noble Earl was that the arms fitted with Morris tubes, at present supplied to public schools on payment, be issued free. The noble Earl has already stated that something has been done in this direction for certain corps. The difficulty we have in dealing with all these proposals is the impossibility of telling to what extent we may be committed financially. The noble Earl asked why there were not more cadet battalions, and he supplied the answer himself by saying that it was because no financial assistance was given by Government. He therefore implies that if financial assistance is given by

Government the number of these corps will be increased, and, of course, if they increase, the financial obligations on the Government will increase also, and it is perfectly impossible for me, or any one, to tell how far we may be committing ourselves if we agree to supply free arms fitted with Morris tubes to all the corps that required them. Taking the number of corps that exist at present the total value of 1,800 carbines and 1,800 tubes, and accessories, which would be required to supply the cadet battalions, would amount to £10,222. That, I say at once, is perfectly impossible to consent to. The third request submitted by the noble Earl was that D.P. arms be issued, if applied for by the commanding officer, in addition to the arms fitted with Morris Tubes. It is not clear exactly what is meant by D.P. arms, and whether carbines or rifles are intended. But taking the numbers in the cadet corps at present, and assuming that half of the boys in a school would join and would require rifles, the number would be about 60,000, the value of the D.P. rifles would be £109,750, and the carbines £73,000.

THE EARL OF MEATH: Do you assert that there are 60,000 lads in middle-class schools of that character?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: Yes that is the number we assume. In fact, we think there would be more. The third request really hangs on the first. If authority is to be given for the formation of these corps without uniform, we can only calculate what our obligation will be by the numbers of boys in these schools. We calculate that if these boys were to form themselves into corps as suggested that would be the total number of rifles we might have to supply. As regards the fourth request—namely, that a free issue of Morris tube ammunition be made to such corps on the same scale as is now made to cadet corps in public schools—that is also an expensive matter. The proportion of Morris tube ammunition is eighty rounds per member of a corps, and therefore for 60,000 scholars the total would come to 4,800,000 rounds, and that would cost £4,140 per annum. The fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth requests of the noble Earl are clearly financial ones, and I have endeavoured to find out what the cost would be likely to be. These requests apply both to cadet corps and cadet battalions.

THE EARL OF MEATH: I beg the noble Earl's pardon. They apply to cadet battalions and companies only.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: Taking requests numbers five and six, and assuming that allowances for regimental camps only are given—that is to say, 19s. for each boy and 52s. for each officer—the cost for 60,000 cadets would be £57,000, and for 750 officers, £1,950.

THE EARL OF MEATH: I am not asking this for cadet corps, but only for cadet battalions and companies—about 6,000 lads.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The noble Earl asks that the allowance now made to Volunteers attending camp should be made to all members of cadet battalions and companies.

THE EARL OF MEATH: Yes, but not corps. There are only nine cadet battalions and two companies.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I had taken companies as meaning corps. I will take the case of the nine battalions. I understand that there are about 5,200 boys in the cadet battalions and 200 officers. The total cost of sending them to camp would be £5,460 per annum. Then, as regards the request that where the range accommodation possible for any cadet battalion or company exists within a journey by rail, the expenses should be borne by the Government, the cost of that would work out at £2,000.

I think, my Lords, that on these five heads I have shown that it would be impossible to grant the assistance asked for unless we were prepared to go to the Treasury for a very large sum of money. I admit that in the request that an amount in the case of cadet battalions should be provided to meet the pay of a sergeant-major, and in the case of cadet battalions of more than six companies of one sergeant-instructor, a very large sum of money is not involved. It would cost £1,080 for the sergeant-majors, and about £186 for instructors. The total cost of these proposals excluding the cadet corps, would amount to £9,200. Of course, as I have said, it is impossible to calculate what the cost of the cadet corps would be, because we do not know how many would be formed. The request that paragraph 37 of the Volunteer Regulations be modified so that cadet officers shall occupy in regard to Volunteer officers the same position that the latter hold in respect of Militia officers, namely, junior of their rank, has already been granted.

THE EARL OF MEATH: I am very glad to hear it, but I venture to think cadet officers are not aware of it.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I come now to the request that Militia officers appointed to cadet battalions take rank according to the date of their appointment to such battalion. I confess I do not quite understand what the object of that proposal is. No expense, of course, is involved. I do not think, under any circumstances, that the military authorities could grant it, and if they did I do not think any Militia officers would join cadet battalions. A Militia officer joining a cadet battalion remains an officer in the Militia, and he does not join the cadet battalion for any other purpose except that he wishes to encourage these boys and has probably been applied to by those who are interested in the battalion. I can hold out no hope that the request contained in this paragraph will be granted. Then the noble Earl asks that sanction shall be given for the enrolment of cadets in cadet companies on the same conditions as now hold good for cadet corps. I presume that the noble Earl wishes the age reduced so that lads can join between twelve and eighteen years of age.

THE EARL OF MEATH: The idea is that they should be able to receive the capitation grant, and retain it the same as they do in cadet corps when they reach the age of seventeen.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I am afraid I can hold out no hope that that will be granted. At the same time, it is a point that shall have very full consideration. The last request submitted by the noble Earl is that serviceable arms shall be served out to the full establishment of cadet battalions, and not to 50 per cent. as at present. I would point out that there is no demand for such a step. Take, for instance, the 1st Manchester, with a total strength of 547 boys. They only applied for fifty rifles. I think it is hardly reasonable that we should be asked to supply, at enormous cost, serviceable rifles to every boy in a cadet battalion when an important battalion like that of the 1st Manchester only requires 50. I think it is obvious that a great many of these cadets are very young and cannot carry a large rifle, and to issue serviceable arms to boys of twelve and thirteen years of age, would be, in many cases, a waste of money.

I am afraid the noble Earl may think that I have treated him somewhat unsympathetically and given him little encouragement, but what little hope of assistance I can hold out I have kept to the last. The noble Earl has pointed out that these lads, after leaving cadet battalions, join the military forces of the country. The military authorities will, I feel sure, be prepared to go a long way in assisting these cadet corps if they can be assured that they tend to increased efficiency of the forces, and especially of the regular forces. Some of these boys join various branches of the service, but we are particularly interested to find out how many join the regular army. I have the figures of one battalion. During the eighteen months ended September, 1902, 301 recruits who had been members of cadet battalions joined the regular army. I have no returns with regard to other battalions. We understand that these boys who had gone straight into the regular army have proved smart, and very quickly become efficient soldiers; and it will be a matter for the consideration of the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief whether or not it will be possible to offer a bounty on every boy who goes into the regular army. That bounty would be paid to the corps, and would be a set-off against the expenses incurred. I think the noble Lord may entertain some hope that something of the kind may be done.

THE RE-STOCKING OF SOUTH AFRICA.

LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps, if any, are being taken to improve and increase the stock of cattle and horses in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies. Your Lordships are, of course, aware that in consequence of the war a vast number of cattle and horses have been destroyed, and I suspect that the breeding establishments out there have become disorganised, if not completely destroyed. This is a question of the greatest importance to the prosperity of the new Colonies, and I desire to ascertain from the Government what steps they propose to take to restock the country with a proper supply of cattle and horses, and whether they have come to any decision as to the particular breeds of cattle best adapted to the climatic and other conditions of South Africa. Those conditions may make it necessary to import cattle from Australia and other parts of the world, but I venture to hope it may be found that there are hardy breeds at home, such as Herefords, available for the purpose. For some years past, cattle and horse diseases have been rife in South Africa, and it would be interesting to know what steps the Government have taken, or are going to take, to check, if not to thoroughly extirpate, these diseases. It is, of course, impossible to expect, owing to the disturbed condition of the country, that there should be an efficient Department such as our Board of Agriculture at home, but we should like to know what steps the Government propose to take to deal with this question. It is obvious that it will be necessary, for the prosperity of the new Colonies, to set up breeding establishments for horses. The native horses have been to a large extent exterminated, but I have no doubt that among the horses imported during the war there are many that would make excellent brood mares. I doubt, however, whether there is any adequate supply of sires, and I should like to know if the Government have any intention of importing or of encouraging the importation of sufficient stallions to secure a good breed

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, this matter has been brought to the notice of the Colonial Office, and by the Colonial Office to the notice of Lord Milner, through the Board of Agriculture, who have been in communication with some of the leading breeders of cattle and horses. Some generous and spontaneous offers have been made, and Lord Coventry has been good enough to say he will do what he can to assist the Department in improving the breed of cattle in South Africa. The noble Lord has correctly stated that a large amount of disease is prevalent in the new Colonies. Unfortunately, South Africa is a prey to all sorts of cattle diseases; but as the stock has been considerably reduced by the war, the moment seems to be propitious for concentrated efforts to stamp out these diseases, if not altogether, at any rate in certain quarters. The Government are considering whether they should not send out bacteriological experts to inquire into some of these diseases, which are little known anywhere outside of South Africa. They may, as the result of their experience, be able to suggest some manner in which we should be able to cope with these diseases. That is the first step to be taken. It is not possible to establish a Board of Agriculture in the new Colonies, but it is the purpose of the Transvaal Government to establish without delay a Veterinary Department. The Government are endeavouring to prevent the decrease of the stock in the Colonies, and have passed an ordinance, both in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, making it a penal offence to slaughter and offer for sale a heifer or cow for two years to come. That will not prevent any one from using their own heifers or cows for food. By that means we hope to maintain the female cattle which were left after the war. We are now purchasing and importing from the neighbouring Colonies and Dependencies stock that are, to some extent, inured to South African diseases. We propose also to obtain stock from distant countries where similar diseases exist. An importer has been authorised to bring 500 cattle from Texas, where the disease known as red-water exists. They are to be kept for three months at the importer's risk, in small lots in different parts of the new Colonies, and if at the end of that period they seem to be inured to this disease, they will be taken over by the Government. I hope that before long a certain number of bulls will be imported from England. We do not think that cows would be of much use, but Hereford or Shorthorn bulls might be imported. I am happy to say that this is likely to be done, not by the Government, but by private enterprise. As to sheep, we are importing a large number of Australian sheep and some English rams. Then with regard to horses, we have retained from amongst the horses the War Office no longer require, 1,500 specially selected mares, and we have also purchased a certain number of stallions, fifteen in all, including six English, two having won Queen's prizes at Islington, one from Argentina, and six Arabs. We have ordered a further twenty-five from Australia. Besides these matters, it is proposed to establish experimental farms, and it is intended by these to show the Boer farmers how to combat the diseases incidental to the climate of South Africa. I hope that as a result of these experiments, which will not be costly, we shall be able before long to considerably improve and increase the stock of cattle and horses in the new Colonies.

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.

LORD WELBY: My Lords, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with reference to the statement made by the Prime Minister that the Law Officers of the Crown in 1880 gave an opinion to the effect that to impose a countervailing duty in order to neutralise a foreign bounty on sugar would be contrary to the most-favoured-nation Clause in existing commercial treaties, whether His Majesty's Government, before advising His Majesty to ratify the Brussels Convention, will lay before Parliament information showing:—

(*a*) What countries are engaged in the production of sugar.

(*b*) Which of the countries in list (*a*) have commercial treaties with the United Kingdom containing a most-favoured-nation Clause.

(*c*) Which of the countries contained in list (*b*) are not parties to the Brussels Convention.

(*d*) What is the annual value of the exports from the United Kingdom to each of the countries in list in the last five years.

Of course, the opinion of the law officers is in no sense a declaration of law; it is only advice given to the Government of the day. But the law officers who, in 1880, gave that opinion were men of great legal repute—namely, Lord James of Hereford, and the late Lord Herschell, and no doubt foreign powers who are interested in the question will take full advantage of their admission. I fully recognise the importance of the answer given by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons to the effect that the present law officers do not share the view of the law officers of 1880, but assuming that the opinion of the law officers of 1880 is correct the question will seriously affect English trade, which to a great extent depends upon the Most-Favoured-Nation Clause. I therefore appeal to the noble Marquess whether, before the time arrives for the ratification of the Convention, he can lay before Parliament the information asked for in my Question.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I understand that the argument of the noble Lord opposite is of this kind—that if we are to regard the opinion given by the law officers of the Crown in 1880 as still holding the field, we should thereby be precluded from imposing countervailing duties upon bounty fed sugar entering this country from other countries with which we have commercial treaties containing the Most-Favoured-Nation Clause. The form of the Return for which the noble Lord has moved suggests the idea that if that be the case we should be exposed to reprisals on a large scale at the hands of foreign Powers, with the result that our commerce might be very seriously checked. I think the Return is intended to show what the extent of that check might be. I can state in half-a-dozen words why it is that we are not deterred by these apprehensions. A good deal has happened since 1880. I think I am not wrong in saying that public opinion, both at home and abroad, with regard to the obligations imposed by the Most-Favoured-Nation Clause has undergone very considerable change; and I am also confident that I am not incorrect when I say that legal opinion upon the same subject has meanwhile undergone considerable modifications. Perhaps I should say rather that it is not so much legal opinion that has changed as the circumstances of the case, which have justified our legal advisers in giving advice of a different kind from that which was tendered to the Government of 1880. Since 1880 there have been what I may call two important leading cases bearing upon this subject. There was, in the first place, that of the United States of America, when they in 1897 resorted to the imposition of countervailing duties upon bounty fed sugar. The imposition of those duties involved the United States Government in considerable controversy with the Government of Russia, but the United States Government successfully maintained their rights. Two years later the Government of India found it necessary to impose countervailing duties on bounty fed sugar. At that time the Government of the day obtained the advice of high legal authorities both in India and in this country, and that advice was to the effect that these duties did not involve an infraction of the Most-Favoured-Nation Clause in commercial treaties.

I think I may say that the most instructive instance of all is the conduct during the present year of the Powers who were represented at the Conference at Brussels. At the Conference of 1888 the Powers thought it necessary to insert in the Convention then agreed to, but not ratified, an article pledging them not to render nugatory the penal Clause against bounty fed sugar to which they had agreed by any appeal to the privileges conferred by the Most-Favoured-Nation Clause. On the occasion of the recent Conference—the Conference of 1902—the Powers, with all those facts before them, deliberately came to the conclusion that the insertion of such an article was not necessary; I think, therefore, we may regard these Powers as deeply committed to the view that the imposition of countervailing duties or the prohibition of bounty fed sugar does not involve an infraction of the commercial treaties. As far as signatory Powers represented at the Brussels Conference are concerned it seems to me there can be no question as to their attitude. Then there are the remaining non-signatory Powers, of whom there are, I believe, altogether twenty-one, but a great number of these Powers do not occupy any very important position as producers or exporters of sugar. I find that of the whole twenty-one only six send sugar into this country. They are Argentina, Columbia, Mexico, Denmark, Russia, and the United States. The last two are the most important. So far as the United States are concerned, I do not believe it is unreasonable to contend that they are absolutely committed by their action in 1897 in insisting on the imposition of countervailing duties themselves. I do not see how they can possibly adopt any other policy. There remains Russia. I do not think the Russian Government can have any ground of complaint of the manner in which they have been treated in this matter. Russia did not think fit to be represented at the Brussels Conference; and in the year 1899, when the Government of India resorted to countervailing duties, it was, in the course of a diplomatic correspondence which then took place, fully and clearly explained to the Russian Government that we claimed the right of imposing those duties and did not admit that their imposition involved an infraction of the most-favoured nation Clause. No reply was received to that representation. We thought it, however, not unreasonable to inform the Russian Government that, if they considered themselves aggrieved by what had taken place, we had no objection to denouncing our commercial treaty with them; and that offer has lately been renewed in consequence of what took place at the Brussels Convention. Therefore, if I may say so, I do not think there is any cause for apprehension of these wholesale reprisals, the expectation of which seems to be in the mind of the noble Lord opposite. We at any rate shall not be deterred by any fear of such reprisals. With regard to the return for which the noble Lord has asked, we are, of course, quite ready to afford any information which may be instructive to the public upon so important a subject; but I can hol out no hope that the information which the return is likely to disclose will deter us from advising his Majesty to ratify the treaty at the proper moment. There is a slight change in the form of the Return which I shall suggest privately to the noble Lord, but we shall be glad to give him substantially the information for which he asks.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY—SUPPOSED ILLEGAL ORNAMENTS.

*LORD KINNAIRD: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether they are aware that there has been erected in Westminster Abbey a stone altar and a crucifix, together with two figures of saints, at the shrine of Edward the Confessor; and to ask who is responsible for their erection; and whether His Majesty's Government are prepared, if such erection is illegal, to correct this abuse of authority.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Lord WINDSOR): As regards the first part of the Question, I can only give the answer which has been given in another place, and that is that the stone altar and the sculptured group, consisting of a crucifix and figures, were removed to their present position at the shrine of Edward the Confessor on the sole authority and on the responsibility of the Dean and Chapter. It is not a matter with which His Majesty's Government have anything to do. The latter part of the Question touches a legal point which I have the Lord Chancellor's permission to leave to him.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): As to the legal side of the Question, the noble Lord must be aware that in the present state of the law any three male persons of full age living in a diocese who have any reason to complain of any new ornament being placed in a church or cathedral, have the right to appeal to the Bishop of the diocese. It is certainly not part of the duty of His Majesty's Government to inquire whether each ornament introduced into a church is illegal. I do not know whether this ornament is illegal or not. It is a delicate matter which may come before me judicially to determine. Speaking generally, it is not illegal to have ornamentation of this kind. I would remind the noble Lord of the decision in the case of Allcroft *v.* the Bishop of London. In that case the allegation was that—

> The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul have introduced into the said Cathedral Church and set up upon the altarpiece or reredos therein an image or sculptured subject, representing our Lord upon the Cross, in a conspicuous position, immediately above the Communion Table, the figure of Our Lord being of the height of 5 ft. or thereabouts. The said image or sculptured subject is constructed so as to have the appearance of such an altar crucifix as was used in the Church of England immediately before the Reformation, and so far as to answer the purposes for which such a crucifix was intended. The said Dean and Chapter have introduced into the said Cathedral Church and set up upon the said altarpiece or reredos therein an image or sculptured subject representing the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Child in her arms, in a conspicuous position, a few feet above the image or sculptured subject, the figure of the Blessed Virgin being of the height of 5 feet 6 inches."

In that case it was held that the Bishop had acted within his jurisdiction and exercised the discretion vested in him; that whether the reasons he gave were good or bad the Bishop, having considered all the circumstances which appeared to him, honestly exercising his judgment, to bear upon the particular case, his reasons could not be reviewed; and there was no ground for a *mandamus*. The noble Lord who has asked this question seems to assume that such sculptured subjects are illegal. No such proposition can be maintained for a moment. A matter of this kind requires careful examination; the noble Lord, however, has said nothing on such a point as to whether the group is made the subject of idolatrous worship. The Government have no reason to suppose the group is illegal, and if it were illegal it could properly be made the subject of complaint by three persons, as I have pointed out, under the Public Worship Act, and the question would then be determined in due course of law.

House adjourned at Seven o'clock,
till Tomorrow, Six o'clock.

The Lord Chancellor.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 16th December, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

PETITIONS.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from North Berwick, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Ratcliffe-cum-Farnworth, against; to lie upon the Table.

METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Petition from Edinburgh, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (IRELAND) (POPULATION).

Return [presented 15th December] to be printed [No. 397.]

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (REPRODUCTIVE UNDERTAKINGS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th June; *Sir Henry Fowler*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 398.]

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Return presented — relative thereto [ordered 9th December; *The Lord Advocate*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 399.]

RAILWAYS (STOCK, ETC.).

Return presented — relative thereto [ordered 15th July; *Mr. Claude Hay*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 400.]

GENERAL LIGHTHOUSE FUND.

Account presented — of the General Lighthouse Fund showing the Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 401.]

SEAMEN'S SAVINGS BANKS (MONEY ORDERS AND TRANSMISSION OF WAGES).

Accounts presented — of all Deposits received and repaid during the year ended 20th November 1901, and Statement as to Money Orders issued and paid from 1855 to 31st March 1902, and of Receipts and Payments in connection with the Transmission of Seamen's Wages from 1878 to 31st March 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 402.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES.)

Copies presented—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2921 and 2922 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.)

Copy presented — of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 586 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (LONDON.)

Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 403.]

POOR LAW CHILDREN (COTTAGE HOMES.)

Return ordered, "showing the names of the Unions the Guardians of which have provided grouped Cottage Homes or other similar establishments for Poor Law Children, the situation of such establishments, and the total cost per head per annum of the children in each establishment during the year ended the 25th day of March 1902."—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

PRACTICE OF THE HOUSE—APPROPRIATION OF SEATS BEFORE PRAYERS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) addressing the Speaker, said he had seen the hon. Member for North Monaghan remove a name card from a seat which had been appropriated for another Member before prayers. He should not have called attention to the matter, only he heard the hon. Member for North Monaghan say to the hon. Member as he was passing——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! These little private matters are not in order The hon. Member has asked me about a point of practice in the House. The practice is that in order to keep a seat the hon. Member himself must be present at prayers. That is quite clear. If the hon. Member has not been present at prayers the card is not effective.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): This is the most shameful incident that any Irish Member has ever introduced.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): Allow me to say that I would be the last person to take any advantage of a rule that was not a right one, and if I did err I am very sorry indeed for it.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Argentine Cattle Regulations.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he can state when the restrictions on the importation of live cattle into England from the Argentine Republic can be removed, in view of the present price of meat.

(*Answered by Mr. Hanbury.*) The existing position with regard to the admission of cattle from Argentina was fully explained in the reply I made to a Question addressed to me by the hon. Member for Bolton on the 9th instant†, to which perhaps the hon. Member will kindly refer. I have not as yet received any official information as to the passing of the new law, and of the issue of the necessary decree thereunder from the Argentine Government, but my expectation is that it will not be long before these matters are placed on a satisfactory footing, and it will then be my duty, in the absence of any further outbreak of disease, to withdraw the existing prohibition.

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† See page 448.

British Indian Subjects in the Transvaal.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether his attention has been directed to a petition from British Indian subjects residing in the Transvaal, appealing against the special disabilities and restrictions there imposed upon them, which was forwarded to Lord Milner on 6th November; and whether the prayer of the petitioners that evidence on their behalf may be submitted by counsel before any ordinance continuing such disabilities receives the sanction of the Crown, will be favourably entertained.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) The petition has not yet been received at the Colonial Office.

Pacific Cable—Vancouver-Fanning Section.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with regard to the speed trials over the recently-laid Vancouver to Fanning section of the Pacific Cable, he will state the length of this section as laid; whether the central wire of the conductor was surrounded by small copper wires or by spiral copper strips; the average weight per nautical mile of the completed conductor; the resistance per nautical mile of the conductor at a temperature of 75° Fahrenheit; the inductive capacity of the core as laid, tested by a null method; the resistance of the dielectric reduced to 75° Fahrenheit, and whether the signals were received on the mirror or on the recorder instrument.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) The length of the recently laid Vancouver-Fanning section of the Pacific Cable is 3457·76 nautical miles. The central wire of the conductor is surrounded by spiral copper strips and the average weight per nautical mile of the completed conductor is 607 lbs., having a resistance of 1,990 B.A. ohms per nautical mile at a temperature of 75° Fahrenheit. The inductive capacity of the core, as laid and tested by a null method, is 0·419 microfarads per nautical mile. Owing to the want of technical precision in the question relating to the resistance of the dielectric reduced to 75° Fahrenheit, there is some uncertainty as to the exact information required, but, assuming that the question refers to the dielectric resistance after one minute's electrification reduced to 75° Fahrenheit and to atmospheric pressure, this value is 1,726 megohms per nautical mile as calculated from the tests made after the laying of the cable. The signals were received on the syphon recorder.

South Africa—Veterinary Examination of Cattle given to the Boers.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in view of the fact that in the case of loans to the Boers two-thirds of such loans are made in kind, will he explain why oxen and mules which are thus handed over to the farmers are not subjected to a veterinary examination before they pass out of the hands of the Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) I have nothing to add to the explanation given to the hon. Member in reply to his Question of the 6th November,† except that no complaints of the arrangements under which stock is being transferred to the Boers have been received.

Australian Commonwealth Labour Laws —Exclusion of English Hatters.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he is aware that six

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† See (4) Debates, cxiv, 265.

British workmen, who recently arrived It Sydney on board the steamship "Orontes," under a contract with a clothing manufacturer, have been refused permission to land under the immigration Act, and that they have been informed that the onus of proving that they possess special skill which is not obtainable in the Commonwealth rests with them; and will he state whether any steps are taken to make these conditions of the Immigration Act known to intending emigrants and to steamship companies who convey passengers to the Australian Colonies.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) I have no information as to the case of the workmen on board the "Orontes" beyond what has appeared in the Press, from which it would appear that these men have been permitted to land in Australia. Full information as to the conditions has been published in the circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office.

Lewis and Harris Weaving Industry.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate whether, with a view to assist in the production of Lewis and Harris tweeds, the Congested Districts Board can arrange for a few hand looms to be distributed in the Island of Lewis, and for special instruction to be giving in weaving.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The policy advocated by the hon. Member has already been adopted. For the ast four years the Congested Districts Board has employed a special instructor in weaving in Lewis and Harris, acting under the supervision of a local committee. That committee has from time to time applied to the Board for help in looms, dye-pots, etc., and in all approved cases such help has been given.

Scottish Fishery Police—H.M.S. "Jackal."

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the cruisers at the disposal of the Fishery Board for Scotland for sea police duty will be reduced in number in consequence of H.M.S. "Jackal" being detailed for purposes of scientific investigation under the direction of the International Research Committee, will he state whether he proposes to call upon the Admiralty for the services of another vessel; and, if not, will he say how he proposes to maintain the numerical strength of the cruisers at the disposal of the Scottish Fishery Board for sea police duty.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) H.M.S. "Jackal" has been specially detailed by the Fishery Board, acting under the directions of the Secretary for Scotland and with the consent of the Admiralty, for temporary work of about a fortnight's duration, which does not recur more than once in three months, in connection with the scheme for International Research in the North Sea, and consequently the Secretary for Scotland does not propose taking the steps suggested by the hon. Member.

Muzzling Order in Pembrokeshire.

MR. PHILIPPS (Pembrokeshire): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he can now state when the muzzling order in Pembrokeshire will be taken off.

(*Answered by Mr. Hanbury.*) I had hoped to be able to withdraw the muzzling orders in force in South-West Wales at no distant date, but the position has been materially altered by the occurrence of a further case of disease at Llandovery. Very searching inquiries are being made with a view, if possible, to discover its origin, and in the meantime it would, in my judgment, be undesirable, in the interests of the complete extirpation of the disease from the district, for any modification of the existing orders to be made.

Merchant Shipping—Board of Trade Certificates—Colour Blindness Tests.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to the nature of the test for colour blindness at present adopted by the Board of Trade; whether he is aware that three dangerous varieties of colour blindness escape detection by this test, whilst many normal-sighted persons are rejected by the test; and whether he can see his way at an early date to appoint a small Departmental Committee to re-consider the test in the light of the recent discoveries and present opinion of medical specialists thereon.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I am aware of the nature of the tests for colour blindness adopted by the Board of Trade, but I am not aware that under the tests dangerous forms of colour blindness escape detection or that persons of normal sight are rejected. The present system was adopted on the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the Council of the Royal Society, and composed of gentlemen of the highest position in the scientific world, while the Board of Trade have in all doubtful cases the advantage of the assistance in the conduct of the tests of the gentlemen who acted as Secretary to the Committee, and who is a well-known authority in this country on the subject of colour vision. The tests are those invented by a distinguished Swedish scientist, and are, I believe, adopted in Foreign countries where any tests are made in examinations for colour vision. From the information at present before me, I do not think that there is any necessity for a Committee such as that suggested by my hon. and learned friend.

Coal and Pit Wood Returns.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can now say what changes will be made in the Monthly Returns next year in respect to the information supplied as to the export of coal and the import of pit wood.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) It is proposed to distinguish the exports of coal in the Monthly Returns next year under three heads, viz., "Small," "Through and through (unscreened)," and "Large," with a further heading for the "Total" of the three descriptions, in order to preserve comparison with the particulars published in previous years. The information to be given under each head will distinguish the quantities and values of the exports as follows:—

		Quantities.	Values.
To—		Tons.	£
Russia			
Sweden			
Norway			
Denmark			
Germany			
Holland			
Belgium			
France			
Algeria			
Portugal, Azores, and Madeira			
Spain and Canaries			
Italy			
Turkey			
Greece			
Egypt			
Brazil			
Argentine Republic			
Uruguay			
Chile			
Gibraltar			
Malta			
British South Africa			
British East Indies			
Other Countries			
Total	Anthracite		
	Steam		
	Gas		
	Household		
	Other Sorts		
	Total		

The imports of pit wood will be shewn under a separate heading in the Monthly Returns for next year.

Light Railways in Derbyshire

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to a scheme for making a light railway between Burton-on-Trent and Ashby-de-la-Zouch by the Midland Railway Company, which has been approved by the Light Railway Commission; and whether, seeing that a similar light railway scheme was rejected last year after opposition by the Midland Railway Company, he can see his way to alter the terms so as to give the Derbyshire County Council, or the Urban District Councils through whose districts the line passes, the right to acquire the undertaking at the end of thirty-five years at cost price, as in the only similar line sanctioned in the county of Derby, instead of on the terms proposed, viz., the full value as a going concern, with the obligation to lease the line to the Midland Railway Company, seeing that the line is made for a considerable portion of its length on land belonging to the County Council.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The Order referred to by the hon. Member has not yet been made by the Light Railway Commissioners and submitted to the Board of Trade for confirmation as provided by the Light Railways Act. When it is submitted due notice will be published in the *London Gazette* and a local newspaper to enable objectors to the confirmation to lodge objections, which will in due course receive full attention from the Board of Trade.

Weybourne Beach.

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk S.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the injury to the Weybourne beach caused by the erection of two case groynes; and whether he will send an inspector to report and advise thereon.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) An officer of the Board of Trade has already been appointed to make an inspection.

Manchester Post Office Electric Lighting Staff.

Mr. SCHWANN: To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that officers employed in the electric lighting department at the Manchester post office are called upon to work eight hours when on night duty, although the Tweedmouth Committee recommended that seven hours should constitute a full night duty; is he also aware that these officers do not receive time and a-half for Sunday duty; and whether he will take action to bring these alleged irregularities into harmony with the recommendations of the Committee.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I will inquire into the case of these officers.

Belturbet Telegraph Staff.

Dr. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): To ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been drawn to the lack of accommodation for the telegraph staff at Belturbet; and whether, in view of its unsuitability, he will take steps to provide a new office.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) A scheme for providing a new post office at Belturbet has been sanctioned, and arrangements are in progress for the acquisition of a site. It is intended to begin the building when the necessary funds have been voted by Parliament.

Eastern Telegraph Cables.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been drawn to the dates for the expiration of the licences for the two Cable Companies to Spain, viz. the Direct Spanish in 1903, and the Eastern in 1904; whether, in view of the purchase and working by the Governments of the cables between England and France, England and Holland, and England and Germany, steps will be taken to establish Government cables between England and Spain.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am aware that the licences to which my hon. friend refers will expire on the dates he mentions; reference was indeed made to this in the case of the Eastern Telegraph Company in the answer I gave him on the 11th instant, in which I stated that, on the recommendation of the Inter-departmental Committee on Cable Communications, certain action would be taken in connection with the renewal of that company's landing rights at Porthcurno. I am not in a position to afford my hon. friend any further information, but the whole question will receive the careful consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Congo—Arrest of Herr Rabinek.

Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if His Majesty's Government are yet in a position to say whether the arrest of Herr Rabinek took place on board the

"Scotia;" and, if so, whether that ship was in British or in Congo State waters at the time; and what course in reference to the arrest it is proposed to adopt.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) As the right hon. Baronet is aware, His Majesty's Government have applied to the owners of the "Scotia" for definite information on the point mentioned. That information we have not yet received. The course to be followed must depend on the facts as eventually ascertained.

Newfoundland Fisheries Commission.

MR. PARTINGTON (Derbyshire, High Peak): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will state when His Majesty's Government propose to publish the Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the Fishing question and the French Treaty Shore in Newfoundland.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) As stated in this House, in answer to a Question on the 8th of July last year, there is no intention of laying the Report before Parliament.

Tuberculosis Commission.

MR. W. F. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercrombie): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state when the Report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis which was appointed in July 1901 is likely to be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am not in a position to state when the Commission will be able to report, but looking to the fact that they have to carry out a prolonged series of experiments, it is not likely that the Report will be issued for a considerable time.

Khairpur—State Sales of Salt.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, in view of the fact that salt is sold by the Government of India to the native State of Khairpur at nine annas per maund on the understanding that it is not to be resold to the people for less than the price charged in the adjoining British district, viz, three rupees twelve annas per maund, will he say whether the other native States of India are enabled to purchase salt from the Indian Government at a similar rate.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The rate at which salt is obtained by certain native States, in virtue of treaty engagements, from the British Indian Government, and the conditions under which it is to be resold, vary in different cases. The condition that such salt is not to be resold at less than the price charged in the adjoining British district is not unusual.

Savings Bank Deposits—Rate of Interest.

MR. WEIR: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the desirability of allowing the rate of interest on savings bank deposits to continue at the present rate so long as Consols remain under par; and will the question of widening the area of investment for saving bank deposits be considered by the Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The hon. Member may be assured that every point bearing on the impending change in the income account of the savings bank funds will receive the fullest consideration before any proposal is made for the reduction of the rate of interest on deposits.

Dublin Corporation Medical Officers.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Local Government Board have refused to sanction an increase of salary to the Medical Officers of Health of the City of Dublin, as recommended by the Corporation of the City of Dublin, and notwithstanding that their work has been increased and a portion of their salaries paid by the Treasury; and will he direct that in accordance with the Local Government Act and Order No. 4 remuneration shall be paid for increased duties.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The work of the Medical Officers of Health has not been increased by reason of the provisions of the Local Government Act Their existing duties were merely defined by Sanitary Order No. 4, of the 3rd

May, 1900, and this Order was made under the Public Health Acts. The Board carefully considered the proposed increases of salary and felt unable to approve of them.

Auxiliary Forces—Establishment Statistics.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the present deficiency in officers in the Auxiliary Forces, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, as compared with the establishment, and also in relation to the numbers actually serving in the ranks.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The figures are as follows:—Deficiency: Militia, 675; Yeomanry, 419; Volunteers, 2,095. Included in the numbers deficient are seconded officers numbering 381, 60, and 239, respectively. The numbers deficient in establishment of the various arms are:—Militia, 20,407; Yeomanry, 8,106; Volunteers, 71,398.

Garrison Regiments.

MR. GOULDING (Wiltshire, Devizes): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the number of garrison regiments, and where they are stationed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) There are at present five battalions of the garrison regiment, three of which are at Malta, one at Gibraltar, and one at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Reserve Forces—Supposed Re-engagements for Indian Service.

MR. GOULDING: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the number of men in the Reserve Forces re-engaged to serve in India.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The hon. Member's Question is not understood. There are no men in the Reserve Forces re-engaged to serve in India.

Education Bill—Rating by Urban District Councils.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: To ask Mr. Attorney General whether, under the Education Bill, an Urban District Council acting as the local education authority will levy and collect the rate necessary for educational purposes, or whether it is intended that the Council shall issue a precept to the overseers of the poor for the amount of education expenses required for the overseers to levy and collect the education rate and pay it over to the treasurer of the said authority.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) The Council will issue their precept to the overseers of the poor to collect the amount and pay it over to the Council.

Education Bill—Religious Instruction—Alterations in Trust Deeds.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, under the Education Bill, the sanction of the Board of Education will be required to alterations in trust deeds which have the effect of modifying the character of the religious instruction to be given in the school, or of giving an appeal to the Bishop or other ecclesiastical authority, where no provision for such an appeal previously existed; if so, from what date the alterations will be subject to confirmation; and, if not, whether he proposes to add any provision of the character suggested.

(*Answered by Mr Balfour.*) The Bill gives no power to alter trust deeds except as regards the appointment of managers. Any other alterations of trust deeds must be made under the law as it now exists.

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Cost of Somaliland Operations.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any estimate has been formed of the probable cost in the present financial year of the preparations for the future Somaliland campaign.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): As far as can be foreseen, the probable cost in connection with the Somaliland expedition during the present financial year will not exceed £250,000.

Gunners in the Channel Fleet.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, in view of the fact that there are in the Channel Fleet but 948 qualified gunners for the 426 guns forming the total armament of the ships of the squadron, he will consider the advisability of increasing the number of qualified gunners in this squadron.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The facts are not correctly stated in the hon. Member's Question, as he leaves out of account nearly 600 men who have passed through the Gunnery School, and are qualified in gunnery. He has also omitted the Royal Marines, by whom, I would remind him, certain guns on board ship are manned. The Admiralty, therefore, are not able to accept the conclusions at which the hon. Member has arrived.

Venezuela.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any attempt has been made on the part of His Majesty's Government to refer the questions in dispute between His Majesty's Government and the Government of Venezuela to arbitration; and whether any such offer has been refused by the Government of Venezuela.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (LORD CRANBORNE, Rochester): The answer to both the honourable Member's Questions is in the negative.

West African Railways.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether Messrs. Shelford and Son, stated in the Colonial Office List to be the Consulting Engineers for Railways employed by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, are also contractors for the construction of West African railways; and will he state what complaints have been received from the Governor of Lagos or other Colonial officials as to the cost and character of the work and supplies required for railway undertakings now in progress in West Africa.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E., for Mr. J. Chamberlain): The West African railways are being constructed departmentally, and not by contract. Messrs. Shelford and Son are the Consulting Engineers, and are not in any sense contractors for the work. No complaints of the kind referred to have been received.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY: Are they constructing the line?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know what meaning the hon. Member attaches to the word "constructing."

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY: There is a wide difference between the engineer and the person who is constructing the line.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have said that they are the Consulting Engineers.

Sultan of Sokoto and the Niger Company.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if the treaty concluded between the Niger Company and the Sultan of Sokoto specifically stated that the treaty was granted to the Niger Company and to its assigns; and if, in view of the interest taken in the matter by Lancashire and other industrial centres trading with West Africa, he will lay upon the Table of the House a Copy of the treaty, and also the despatches showing the efforts which have been made to induce the Sultan of Sokoto to recognise the Crown as transferees of the treaty and treaty rights, and the efforts to establish friendly relations generally; and whether he will give instructions that friendly assurances shall be at once conveyed to the Sultan of Sokoto and to the Sultan of Kano, by special missions or otherwise, that the contemplated military preparations and movements of troops are merely of the nature of police protection for the British and French Delimitation Commissioners, and that nothing of a hostile or unfriendly nature to Sokoto or Kano are intended thereby.

SIR CHARLES DILKE had on the Paper the following Question: To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies. whether, in the treaties of 1885, 1890, and 1894, between the Emirs of Sokoto and the Niger Company, the Company was recognised as receiving its powers from and as representing the Crown; and if he will explain the circumstances under which it is alleged that Sokoto declined to recognise the transfer of the powers of the Company to the Imperial Government, and will lay upon the Table a copy of any communications which passed at the time the transfer took place, and, whether every endeavour will be made in connection with the Anglo-French boundary delimitation to prevent the suspicion of the Mohammedan Emirs being excited by the composition of the armed escort.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps I may be allowed to answer the two questions together. By the treaty of the 25th of June, 1894, the Sultan of Sokoto expressly recognised the Royal Niger Company as receiving its powers from and representing the Queen of Great Britain. Two of the three treaties have been published in Hertslet's "Map of Africa by Treaty." The treaty of 1894 has not been printed there, but is in the same terms *mutatis mutandis* as the treaty with Gandu of the same year. The word "assigns" is not used in any of the treaties, but the treaty of 1885 was made with the Company "or other with whom they may arrange." Sir F. Lugard's messenger to the Sultan, informing him of the transfer was treated with indignity, and to messages sent subsequently the Sultan has returned a defiant reply. The actual text of the communications which have passed between the High Commissioner and the Sultan is not in the possession of His Majesty's Government, and no Papers on the subject can usefully be laid before the House at present, but Sir F. Lugard's annual Report for the last year, in which his relations with Sokoto and Kano are referred to, will shortly be published. Sir F. Lugard's policy has always been to cultivate friendly relations with the Sultans, if possible, and he has no doubt done all in his power to avert any suspicions which might be excited by the military arrangements necessary for the protection of the Boundary Commissioners.

MR. EMMOTT: May I ask whether any new provisions have been introduced which would in any way account for the remarkable change that seems to have occurred in the relations between the Emir and the Government?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think not. I had, however, better ask for notice of any additional Questions.

Flash Point of Petroleum.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he is aware that Dr. Dupré, the Home Office chemist, stated in a speech at Sutton that there shall be no legislation raising the flash point of petroleum from 73° Abel close test; whether Dr. Dupré has been called on for any explanation of this speech, and what has been the result.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The speech to which, as I understand, the hon. Member refers, consisted of remarks delivered at least five years ago by Dr. Dupré in the course of discussion at a meeting of the Sutton Scientific and Literary Society. The words in the Question do not accurately represent what was said, as far as can be recollected. Dr. Dupré's remarks were known in the Home Office at the time, and I find nothing which I feel called upon to ask him to explain.

Vaccination.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce, in the course of next Session, a measure extending the duration of or-rendering permanent the provisions of the Vaccination Act, 1898, which will otherwise expire on the 1st day of January 1904.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): Yes, it will be necessary to deal with this matter next Session.

English Appointments to Irish Postmasterships.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he can state on what grounds English officials have been appointed to the recent vacancies for postmasterships in Ireland; why have Irish officers of long service been passed over; and whether he will take steps to secure that promotions to Irish post offices will be made from the ranks of the Irish officials.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Vacancies in postmasterships are habitually advertised in the Post Office Circular and are open to all qualified applicants irrespective of their place of residence at the time. In filling recent vacancies in Ireland I have chosen the senior candidate who appeared to me in all respects qualified. And I am satisfied that this is the only method of selection which is fair to the large staff employed by the Post Office. Exactly the same rules are followed in filling vacancies in England or Scotland.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Has the right hon. Gentleman seen the list of these appointments in the Tory *Evening Mail*?

(No answer was returned.)

MR. TULLY: How is it that the selections for these offices are all Englishmen?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: They are not.

Blacksod Bay Coastguard.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a complaint that on the 28th ultimo the officer of the Blacksod Bay coastguard station lent the service rifles to a civilian for sporting purposes; that these rifles were fired so as to interfere with the sporting rights of Mr. Thomas Sweeney; and what action has been taken in this matter.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The infringement of Mr. Sweeney's sporting rights consisted in this, that the shot from the service rifle was fired at long range, and before he himself could fire. It was wrong, no doubt, for the officer of the coastguard to use the rifle for sporting purposes. But the temptation was great and the wrong was unintentional, and no further notice of the matter has been taken beyond warning him not to do it again.

Irish Dispensary Appointments.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if any appointments have yet been made to the vacant dispensary appointments in the counties of Louth, Waterford, and Wexford, for which the branches of the Medical Association have decided that no candidates will apply unless the salaries are fixed at £200 a year; and what steps have the Local Government Board taken in the matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: There is no vacancy in the County Wexford. In Louth an election to fill the one vacancy in that county is fixed to take place on Tuesday next. In Waterford the question of re-arranging the boundaries of the vacant district is still under the consideration of the Guardians.

Irish Land Conference.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any expert official from the Land Commission Department will be directed to attend and assist with official statistics the conference between the representatives of landlords and tenants promoted by the committee of landlords presided over by the Earl of Dunraven.

MR. WYNDHAM: The official statistics issued from time to time by the

Land Commission have been published in the form of annual reports and returns, which have been presented to Parliament. The Commissioners, I have no doubt, would be quite willing to supply, on application, copies of such documents to the conference, but beyond this no directions could be given.

Mr. TULLY : As this is going to be the greatest meeting of the century, they ought to have the best expert advice.

Rathmullan (Donegal) Pier.

Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to representations from the inhabitants of Rathmullan, county Donegal, requesting a grant out of the moneys voted by the Marine Works Act for the extension of the existing pier at Rathmullan; and whether, seeing that the proposed extension of the pier has been recommended by the officers of His Majesty's ships anchored off Rathmullan, he will comply with this request.

Mr. WYNDHAM : I am not yet in a position to make any pronouncement upon the question of the allocation of the moneys provided by this Act.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: When may we expect an announcement ?

Mr. WYNDHAM : I shall be going into the matter in Ireland in January.

Roman Catholic Catechist for the Armagh Union.

Mr. O'DOHERTY : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Local Government Board (Ireland) wrote to the Armagh Board of Guardians with reference to the appointment of a Roman Catholic catechist in that union, and requesting the guardians to obtain from the Roman Catholic chaplain a report as to whether the lady appointed was qualified to perform the duties of catechist to the Roman Catholic children in the workhouse, and whether, seeing that the guardians refused to comply with this request, he will state what further action the Local Government Board purpose taking in the matter.

Mr. WYNDHAM : The facts are correctly stated. The matter is at present engaging the attention of the Local Government Board.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Militia and Yeomanry Bill; Osborne Estate Bill; Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill; Mail Ships Bill; Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

London Water Bill, with Amendments.

LONDON WATER BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 310.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

(2.25) Motion made, and Question put "That the Proceedings on Consideration of the Lords Amendments to the Education (England and Wales) Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this day, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 182; Noes, 55. (Division List, No. 634)

AYES,

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (Worc.

Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.)
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Macartney, Rt Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Milvain, Thomas
Mooney, John J.
Morrell, George Herbert
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thompson, Dr E. C (Monagh'n, N
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Emmott, Alfred
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Rea, Russell
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. William M'Arthur and Mr. Robert Spencer.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Order read, for consideration of Lords Amendments.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I think it would obviously be for the convenience of the House if the Leader would state generally the line which the Government proposes to pursue in regard to those Amendments, which are not mere drafting ones but which raise serious points.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carvarvon Boroughs), on a point of order with reference to certain underlined words within brackets and the statement in regard thereto that "it was proposed that those words should be omitted by the Commons," asked by whose order the words were inserted. He submitted that if it was by order of the House of Lords it was a gross breach of the privileges of the House of Commons. It struck him as a piece of dictation by the House of Lords to the House of Commons. He assumed that the words were not put in by the order of the Speaker, and certainly they could not have been inserted on the order of the Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I think I can give the hon. Member the information he desires. As he is aware, when the Lords insert an Amendment which contains a blank, it has been the practice to make a motion calling attention to that blank and suggesting that it should be filled in by the House of Commons. What has been done in this case is intended to be analogous to that practice. I rather agree, however, that the phrase quoted by the hon. Member is an unfortunate phrase taken in connection with the present Bill. The words have been inserted without any interference by the Chair or by the Clerk at the Table, but in accordance with a general arrangement made a long time ago between the officers of the House of Lords and the Public Bill Office and frequently acted upon, with a view to conveying to the Commons the nature of the proposal or suggestion. As to whether it is a convenient practice or not, I believe that as a general rule the use of some such notice is convenient, but it occurs to me that, in relation to a highly contentious measure like the Education Bill, the words used ought not to assume beforehand what the action of the House of Commons will be. Whether some other form of words which avoids that suggestion, while at the same time pointing out the nature of the proposal, cannot be devised for use in the future, is a question which deserves to be considered. The Paper in question is printed by order of this House, and not of the House of Lords.

* SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Is not the Prime Minister going to rise?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Of course I will rise, out of courtesy to the right hon. Gentleman, but I really have very little to say. I have no general statement to make with regard to the Lords Amendments. With two or three exceptions, I believe they are purely drafting Amendments, which neither require, nor indeed call for, discussion, and with regard to Amendments not of that character the only result of a general statement would be that we should have a desultory, imperfect, and fruitless discussion before we came to the actual debate which is to determine the course we shall pursue. Under these circumstances, I venture respectfully to suggest to the House that probably the most convenient course would be to at once enter on the discussion of the Amendments without any preliminary debate.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that several of the Amendments—probably seven or eight—were highly contentious; and in the case of a Bill so contentious it would have been convenient, as well as in accordance with custom, if the right hon. Gentleman had made a general statement, such as they had often listened to, as to the views of the Government. As that statement had not been made, he proposed to move that the Lords Amendments be considered this day three months. That Motion could only be made in the case of a Bill to which those who made it were fiercely hostile, as if carried it meant the rejection of the Bill. Objectionable as the Bill had been before, the seven or eight contentious Amendments inserted by the Lords worsened it from the point of view of the Opposition. In no point had their views been met. He did not propose to discuss them at length, but he would refer to one or two. There was one to which, no doubt, great importance was attached by other hon. Members, but as he did not share their views on it, he would leave them to raise it—he meant the Amendment in regard to the Cowper-Temple Clause. Another of these Amendments, to which very little attention had been paid in the other House, included diocesan boards in the bodies to be represented on the education committees. They had had considerable experience of these Boards, and he had called down on himself strong condemnation from the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Oxford University, and the hon. and learned Member for the Stretford Division of Lancashire, who spoke with great knowledge of Church feeling, because in Committee on the Bill he had associated jobbery with these Boards. He spoke of facts within his own knowledge and affecting his own constituency. These associations of voluntary schools, now for the first time brought in, were bodies which had not dispensed the funds given by Parliament to poor voluntary schools in a way which gave them the right to representation on these committees; and, in passing, he might say they were already arranging to secure that representation, for in some districts where the opposition was likely to be most strong, time had been taken by the forelock to such an extraordinary extent that the committee had been virtually appointed under schemes which it was proposed to bring into existence. Another Amendment to which hon. Members attached great importance was that which excluded elementary teachers from the committees. That was an Amendment of substance, and one which would have to be fought. Higher teachers were to be entitled to be placed on these committees, and why should such a special stigma be placed on elementary teachers as to say that they were not also fit persons to be appointed. The only other Amendments to which he would refer were those which more or less concerned the privileges of the House, those which touched rates and taxes. They divided themselves into two groups, There was the one which had been dealt with under a most unfortunate precedent—objected to at the time by the Irish Members on constitutional grounds—by putting words into the Bill which made nonsense of it, in order to avoid what would otherwise be an interference with the privileges of the House of Commons. With that they would have to deal when this particular Amendment was reached. Then there was the insertion, on two occasions, of the words "or rent." These Amendments were obnoxious, because they were Government Amendments, of the necessity for which the Government were perfectly aware when the Bill was in the House of Commons. They were excluded in the hurry of the last stages of the Bill [A Laugh.] The hon. Member for Manchester laughed at that, possibly because the Bill had taken up so much time, but if he had closely watched the proceedings he would have known that the financial Clauses had been dealt with in so hurried a manner that even now they were not water-tight. The proposal was one which the Government thought they ought to put in. His right hon. friend the Member for South Aberdeen thought there was substance in the Amendment, and objected to it on principle. He intended to divide the House on it, but there was some difference of opinion as to whether there was really substance in it, and when the Government Amendment came up it was ruled out of order on the ground that it affected the burdens of the people, and ought to have been the subject of preliminary debate. Yet it had been put in in another place and brought down to the House of Commons. It was, he thought, a direct violation of the privileges of the House. If it should be put to them that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen was wrong in his view, and that it was not a matter of substance, but merely a verbal alteration, carrying out the views of the House, what was the position of the Government? It ought to have taken the natural and constitutional course, and have recommitted the Bill in respect of these two Amendments only. It could not have taken much time or involved any lengthened debate, for no constitutional question could have arisen, and there would have been no breach of the privileges of the House. Therefore the Government, even if their contention was right, were in no better position, for it was clear that they should have recommitted the Bill.

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he had hoped the right hon. Gentleman opposite would have risen to make a statement on these Amendments. They were not without a precedent in the matter, and a very recent precedent was the case of the Parish Councils Bill. That Bill was a good deal altered in the House of Lords, and when it came back to the House of Commons, the Prime Minister (Mr. Gladstone) superseding for the moment—so important did he deem the matter—the Minister in charge of the Bill, made an elaborate statement as to the course the Government intended to pursue with regard to the Lords' Amendments. Even if there had been no precedent, it was obvious that it would conduce to the proper discussion of these Amendments if the right hon. Gentleman made such a statement. The Amendments came before the House that morning; they had only had an hour or two to look at them; they referred to the pages and lines of a Bill which many of them had not in their hands, and even with it they had to struggle with them as best they might. They knew that some were more important than others, but it would have facilitated business very much if the right hon. Gentleman had taken the business-like and more courteous course he had suggested, and explained to the House shortly what the Government proposed to do. Such a statement need not have given rise to any discursive discussion, but it would have greatly facilitated the progress of business, and have redounded to the advantage of the Government.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the right hon. Gentleman had made two accusations against him. One was that he was lacking in business capacity, and the other was that he was lacking in courtesy. The first did not move him much. As regarded the second, he was sure the right hon. Baronet, whatever other charges he might have desired to make, did not mean to charge him with discourtesy. He did not think there was really any call for a general reply on the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet. The right hon. Gentleman had quoted a precedent, but he did not know, for he had not had an opportunity to refresh his memory on the point, what were the reasons which induced Mr. Gladstone to make a general statement of policy with regard to the Lords Amendments to the Parish Councils Bill. Upon this occasion there was no need for such a general statement. The great majority of the Amendments were drafting Amendments, and conduced merely to clearness. He hoped that they would be accepted without any lengthy discussion. He could not make out eight Amendments of substance, and he thought the right hon. Baronet, in his enumeration of the questions of substance, had somewhat exaggerated the number. But he must repeat that he had no general statement to make, as their views could only be stated with advantage as the Amendments came up for discussion. He could only repeat the advice he gave a few moments ago, that it would really conduce to the discussion of these Amendments if they brought this general debate to a conclusion, and proceeded at once to the discussion of the Amendments one by one.

(2.55.) MR. LLOYD-GEORGE did not think the Prime Minister had facilitated the discussion by declining to give a general indication of his policy. This was an exceptional state of things, and he did not believe the Lords Amendments to a first-class Bill had ever been taken on the very day those Amendments were printed. Such a thing could not be done in the case of a Private Bill. It could not be done by the Rules of the House in the case of a Private Bill. Of course in a case of urgency the House could suspend its Standing Orders, but, then, this was not a case of that kind. The right hon. Gentleman was in a great hurry to give this Bill as a Christmas-box to the clergy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: They do not seem very thankful for it.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he expected the right hon. Gentleman to say that. If the clergy could not stand by a bargain, it was not to be expected they would be thankful for a gift. Looking at the Amendments as they were presented on the Paper, it was impossible to discover what they meant. It was necessary to go carefully through the Bill in order to fit them in and to consider their bearing on other Clauses. Although some of them knew every line of the Bill by heart—as well as they did their Catechism—it still needed very careful examination to know what the Amendments meant. He candidly confessed that, though he had followed the proceedings from day to day, he had not the remotest notion what many of the Amendments were. It was only on the previous day he asked for a printed copy of the Amendments. The Prime Minister by his reply showed that he knew what was coming. Although it was not until he learned that the Lords had amended the Bill on the Third Reading that he understood what the right hon. Gentleman meant when he suggested that there were possibilities. The Prime Minister, he supposed, had this in his mind.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Assuming the hon. Member to refer to what took place in the House of Lords yesterday, I can assure him I had not that in my mind.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he accepted the right hon. Gentleman's statement, of course. But the fact remained that they got a copy of the Amendments only that morning, and had not had time to consider them. They were really entitled to ask for a couple of days for that purpose. He thought that no Leader of the House could refuse so reasonable a request if made by the Opposition. But they were not pressing for that. They asked simply for a general idea as to what the right hon. Gentleman proposed to do concerning the contentious Amendments. Fifty or sixty Amendments had been made by the House of Lords. He would not say they were all contentious, but there were possibilities of contention in them. Surely it would be well for the Government to state their intentions with regard to, at any rate, three or four of those Amendments. First, what was the right of entry into secondary schools? That was an important Amendment. But the one they all had in mind was the "Manchester Amendment," the joint production of the Duke of Norfolk, representing the Catholic Church, and the Bishop of Manchester, representing the Anglican Church. In the House of Lords the Government resisted that Amendment, and were defeated. Were they going to accept the humiliating defeat at the hands of the Bishops and the Catholic Church, or were they going to stand up to the clergy? The Amendment, as worded, was pure nonsense; it meant nothing, and was intended to mean nothing. The House of Lords was attempting to dictate to the House of Commons by saying: "We do not intend the Amendment to mean anything; our orders are that you should omit the last two lines." He understood that these words were really inserted, not by the Lord Chancellor or the Bishops, or the Duke of Norfolk, but by the Clerks. Was the Prime Minister, with the honour of the House of Commons in his custody, going to advise the House to bow to the dictation of the Clerks of the House of Lords? The Government, first of all, declared that this was a bad Amendment, and, through their representative in the House of Lords, said they could not accept it, as it was a departure from the bargain. Was the Prime Minister now going to say they would accept it? He was afraid he was, and that this was the reason of his silence. Anyhow, it was a good lesson for the Prime Minister and for every Statesman in the future not to go buccaneering with a crew of Bishops. The House was entitled to ask what the view of the

Government was with regard to this particular loot? Were the Bishops to be allowed to stick to it, or was the Prime Minister going to keep to the bargain? He was aware that the right hon. Gentleman repudiated the idea of a bargain. Did he mean to say that the leaders of the Church were not cognisant of the terms of the Bill before its introduction in the House of Commons? There was little doubt that they knew what the general outlines of the measure were, and assented to them. According to the Archbishop of Canterbury, it was a bargain, but a hard bargain, and now the Government, having carried out its part of the bargain, and a little more, in the House of Commons, the Bishops said, "As that part of the bargain is perfectly safe, we will try to squeeze a little more." All he could say was that the ideas of commercial honour on the Episcopal Bench were not as high as those of the Stock Exchange. There was not a commercial body in the country, however hard the bargain might be from its point of view, that would dream of attempting such a course.

Then there was the question of the teachers. When the proposal was made that the local authority should have the right to put elementary teachers on the committee, it was at once assented to by the Prime Minister, and, by unanimous consent, inserted in the Bill. To draw a distinction between elementary and secondary teachers was most invidious, and the only ground on which he could conceive the House of Lords doing it was that they regarded the secondary teachers as a special and privileged class, whom consequently they were bound to protect. He hoped the Prime Minister would face the Bishops, at any rate on that point.

Another matter on which the right hon. Gentleman should declare his policy was the Amendment of the Schedule. That portion of the measure was passed in the House of Commons without a word of discussion. Any Amendment from the Nonconformist, or popular, point of view was impossible, while the Bishops were sure of their chance in the House of Lords. That chance had been taken, and a serious Amendment effected by which, for fifteen or eighteen months, money with regard to voluntary schools, would be handed over to diocesan associations—for what? To pay liabilities; but the balance, if any, was to be pooled. It might be used for building purposes, so that Parliament would be simply enabling the Church to accumulate a large building fund for the purpose of fighting the provided schools. That was grossly unfair. He hoped the Prime Minister would state generally what he proposed to do with regard to the two or three Amendments he had particularly referred to.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I think my hon. friend is entirely justified in his demand that the Government should tell us at once whether they mean to take in the House of Commons the same course with regard to these matters as was taken by their representative in the House of Lords. The statement of the case by the Government in the House of Lords was extremely distinct, especially with reference to the Amendment dealing with the repairs. That statement, as made by the official agent of the Government in charge of the Bill, was:—

> "The general intention of the Bill was that the managers should not only provide the schools, but keep them in suitable condition. In the other place, this view was sustained by a majority far beyond their ordinary Parliamentary majority. Any attempt to meet cases of exceptional hardship would go very far beyond these cases, and would disturb to a serious degree the general arrangement of the Bill. The Government had proposed that the managers should make themselves responsible, not only for structural, but also for the internal repairs of the school——."

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The right hon. Gentleman began by saying he would read from a speech made in the House of Lords. I must remind him that it is not in order to quote from recent debates in that ouse. I have no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman will be able to state what he understands to be the views of the Government as expressed in the House of Lords, without quoting the speeches.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I am sure you will concede, Sir, that, at all events upon the Lords Amendments, we are entitled to state, in a general way, how those Amendments arose, and what the view of the Government in reference to them was in the House of Lords. What I desire to state is that the Government refused to accept the Amendment, because it was entirely inconsistent with the general arrangement and intention of the Bill. Their view was that these things were part of the arrangement as to the financial relations between the local authority and the managers, and they deprecated as strongly as they could any provision by which that arrangement would be modified in favour of either the one party or the other. We are entitled to ask whether that is to be the view of the Government in the House of Commons? It is perfectly clear that the Amendment carried in the House of Lords is an entire departure from the financial arrangements as made by the House of Commons. I must say that I regard with extreme regret the method which has been adopted occasionally in the past to evade the privileges of this House, and to allow the House of Lords to deal with financial matters which have been disposed of by the House of Commons. It is not as if this was a financial matter which had accidentally escaped observation, or had passed through in the hurry and scurry in which the financial provisions of the Bill were dealt with during the last days of the discussion in this House. The matter was fully and carefully considered, and it was determined by an overwhelming majority. It is now brought down to us from the House of Lords with this extraordinary paragraph. If this course is to be pursued and extended in matters of such tremendous consequence, the control of the House of Commons over the finances of this country will be practically destroyed. Up to this time the rule has been, with very rare exceptions, that when there has been a breach of privilege it has been dealt with by Mr. Speaker. If it had come down to the House of Commons without this paragraph in brackets, you, Mr. Speaker, would have declared that it was a breach of privilege of this House, in your official capacity, and you would have done this just as you would have prevented any breach of the Standing Orders of this House. Wherever Mr. Speaker has announced to the House that he regards an Amendment as a breach of the privilege of this House, that Amendment has been so regarded. It was so in the case of the Education Bill of 1891, when your predecessor, Mr. Speaker Peel, upon the appeal of my right hon. friend the Member for East Wolverhampton, declared that a very indirect Amendment was a breach of the privileges of this House. Thereupon, Mr. Goschen, who was then in charge of the House, consented to the rejection of that Amendment as such.

And now, Sir, what is the position we are placed in by this Amendment? It is a nonsensical Amendment. Is the educational legislation of this country to be based upon nonsensical Amendments of this kind sent down from the House of Lords in a most unconstitutional form as regards the control of the finances of this country? We know perfectly well if a nonsensical Amendment is proposed in this House, you, Mr. Speaker, would refuse to allow it to be put; but to send down a nonsensical Amendment from the House of Lords for the purpose of carrying through a collusive arrangement with the Government, and to say that the House of Commons shall carry out the directions of the House of Lords, is a most dangerous precedent to establish, and ought not to be encouraged. What was the position? Are the Government, or are they not, going to take up this nonsensical Amendment from the House of Lords and deal with it as a method of superseding the proceedings of the House of Commons? I venture to say, and I believe I am right, that if this Amendment had been made in the House of Commons, it could only have been made in Committee of this House, and that would have been a necessary condition. What takes place? You get rid of the security of finance by a Committee of this House, and you substitute for that Committee this nonsensical Amendment of the House of Lords. That is the protection given to the finance of this country under the reactionary policy to which we are beginning, I am afraid, to be too much attached.

Therefore, I think we are entitled, before we go into these considerations, to hear from the Government what is their contention with regard to these matters. This is admitted to be a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons. This proposal has been declared in the House of Lords to be a breach of the intentions of the Government under this Bill, and it is a breach of the whole financial arrangements made in this measure, which will have the effect of throwing upon the public authority charges which were always intended to be borne by the private subscribers. I desire to know whether these subscribers are to be called upon to fulfil that obligation, or whether the Government are going to depart from the whole of their declarations in this House upon this question? Having been defeated upon this question in the House of Lords, the Government are going to call upon the House of Commons to reverse the decision arrived at by a great majority. Are the Government going to encourage such proceedings as those contemplated in this Amendment to defeat the control of the finances of this country by the House of Commons?

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said the Lords Amendments were either of first-class and real importance, or else they were merely of a drafting character. The latter did not affect the Bill much, but the former were concessions on the part of the Government to the demands of the Bishops, and in regard to those Amendments the only dignified reply was to say that this House declined to consider them altogether. Just complaints had been made that the interests of many classes had been seriously injured by the proposals of this Bill. The fact that these Amendments were all concessions to the demands of the Bishops, and in favour of a privileged Church, was a sufficient condemnation of the House of Lords as a practical legislative power in regard to the Parliamentary proceedings of this country. It could not be forgotten how extremely hurried had been the proceedings in the House of Lords. For the first time in recent history the House of Lords had sat during the past week every day in the week for six consecutive days, and even on the Third Reading they proceeded to put further Amendments in the Bill. He did not think it was reasonable that the Government should ask the House at such short notice to consider Amendments of such first-class importance as those which the House of Lords had inserted. He should support the Amendment of his right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean.

(3.23.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 228; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 635.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Har
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gretton, John
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Haslett, Sir James Horner

Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard. J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Johnstone, Heywood
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, George
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Milvain, Thomas
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt Hn. A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thompson, Dr E C (Monagh'n N.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John (Montrose
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas David Alfred (Merthyr

Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment:—

"In page 1, lines 21 and 22, leave out 'including the training of teachers,' the first Amendment, read a second time."

THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) moved that this Amendment be accepted. The training of teachers was in the definition Clause as part of the duties of the education authority.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said he quite agreed that the definition Clause explained what might be done under the term "secondary education." At the same time, after two days debate, the House of Commons thought it desirable that these words should be inserted on the face of the Bill in order that this matter, which was considered of first-class importance, should not escape the attention of any Town Council, or County Council. There was no reason for the Government assenting to the leaving out of the words. He did not think there was any matter of more importance, in regard to the educational needs of the country, than increased facilities for the training of teachers.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE hoped the Government would disagree with this Amendment. In substance there was not much in it either one way or the other. While it was true that this was in the definition Clause, the feeling, when Clause 2 was debated was that by putting these words on the face of the Bill, local authorities would see that this was one of the things they had to consider. Up to the present the local authorities had made no provision at all for the training of teachers, and if they found these words there they would be stimulated to make provision, though they might not otherwise do so. The words if retained could not possibly do any harm, and they might do some good.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT thought it was a matter worth consideration whether these specific words should be omitted. This was a matter of great importance to the education of the country. The House of Lords attached so much importance to voluntary associations that they did not consider they were covered by the words "other bodies," and they insisted upon specific reference being made to voluntary associations. But they did not care to specify the training of teachers. The House of Commons might be excused if they attached more importance to the training of teachers than to voluntary associations. He believed that County Councils would not be disposed of themselves to go to any great expense under Part II. of the Bill, dealing with higher education, for the disposition would be to keep down the rates. Therefore it was most important that the House should emphasise that matter and keep these words in.

SIR WILLIAM HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford) hoped the House would proceed to the more important matters awaiting discussion. This matter was covered by the definition Clause, and the words in Clause 2 were weakening words as they stood. It was part and parcel of the duties of the local authority to provide for the training of teachers.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said they were told a minute or two ago that there were eight Amendments of importance to the Opposition. The Government were invited to state their views on those Amendments, but the House had not been told what they were. The hon. Member for the Morley Division said that all the rest were drafting Amendments, and that it did not matter whether they were inserted or rejected.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): I congratulate the hon. and learned Member for North Louth on his alliance with the Government.

MR. T. M. HEALY: The Catholics are not ashamed of that, anyhow.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: I am sure the Government are. This is not a Clause for the training of Irish Members, but for the training of teachers. The point we take is that these words in the Clause can do no harm, and they may do some good. Then, why in the world should they not be inserted to call attention at the very start of the Bill to one of the most important duties of the education authority?

(3.48) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 235; Noes, 88. (Division List, No. 636.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, John George
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gretton, John
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton Rt Hn Lord G, (Midd'x
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Haslet, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Johnstone, Heywood
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, George
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt Hon. William Edw. H.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Madona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E. (Wigt'n
Milvain, Thomas
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)

O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington,Lieut.-Col.Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Ridley,Hn.M. W.(Stalybridge
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Ritchie,Rt. Hn.Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley,EdwardJas.(Somerset
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.HnJ.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thompson,Dr.EC(Monagh'n,N
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E(Taunton
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.)
Wharton, Rt Hon. John Lloyd
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley,H(Ashton-und-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor,Henry Wilson
Wortley,Rt.Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen,CharlesP.(Glouc.Stroud
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans,SirFrancisH(Maidstone
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,RtHn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey,Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt,Rt. Hon,Sir William
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter,Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope,John Deans (Fife, West)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor,Rt. Hon. John William
Morgan,J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley,Rt.Hn.John(Montrose
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel,Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHn.C.R.(Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,SirA. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner,Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J.H. (Halifax)
Wilson,Fred.W.(Norfolk,Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Alfred Hutton and Mr. Ellis Griffith.

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 2, line 26, agreed to.

Lords Amendment:—

"In page 2, line 26, after 'provided,' insert 'except in cases where the Council, at the request of parents of scholars, or on other grounds, allow any religious instruction to be given in the school, college, or hostel otherwise than at the cost of the Council.'"

The next Amendment read a second time.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said although he objected to the Amendment as a whole, and hoped the House would disagree with it, he would, before discussing the Amendment itself, move an Amendment to it, which was to leave out the words "on other grounds." This Amendment had a very curious history. An Amendment was introduced, in conformity with what was shewn to be the general feeling of the

House, by the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Board of Education before he became a Member of the Government last July. Now, in the other House—at the instance of the other House—this provision had been inserted, and it seriously impaired the value of the Amendment moved by the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Board of Education and accepted by the House in July. There were many objections to this Amendment altogether. In the first place, it introduced what had been objected to by this House—namely, the right to allow the different denominations to come into the schools and disturb the instruction given in them, and complicate their arrangements by each giving his own religious teaching. The complication of such an arrangement had been so conclusively shown that, when this Amendment was sought to be introduced, this House had rejected it by a large majority. But a very much stronger objection was that the Amendment in its present form suggested to the local authority the policy of creating distinct sectarian secondary schools, instead of suggesting to them that the proper policy for them to pursue was to create schools equally available for all members of the community, which would represent the general desire of the community to have religious instruction given to their children in common. The meaning of this Amendment was that they should create and endow, establish and maintain, separate schools, in which distinct denominational teaching could be given. That would be the natural result of it. And that was especially the case if these words, "on other grounds," were left in. If it had been suggested that there was a case for allowing distinctive religious instruction to be given at the request of the parents, that was one thing, and it might well be that such a case could be made out. But these words carried the Amendment a great deal further. "On other grounds" might mean one of two things. They might mean the offer of a sum of money from a particular denomination towards the cost of building a school on the understanding that the local authority would allow them to use that school for sectarian instruction, or it might mean that in the view of the local authority itself it was better to set up separate schools for the children of each denomination than to create one school for all denominations. This Amendment seemed to him to be a direct appeal to the local authorities to do the former. Nothing could be more unfortunate than that the local authorities should be persuaded into a policy of creating sectarian schools, and be encouraged to abolish the Cowper-Temple Clause. Nothing could be imagined better calculated to throw the apple of discord into our schools. We should soon see the growth of sectarian parties in our Councils, whose whole aim would be to set up sectarian rather than unsectarian schools. Whether or not the House accepted the Amendment as a whole, he submitted that these words ought to be left out, and that this power should only be granted after a desire for it had been expressed by the parents.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'or on other grounds.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said that as the right hon. Gentleman had intimated that he was going to oppose the Clause in its entirety later, he would confine himself to the particular Amendment which the right hon. Gentleman had introduced to the Lords Amendment. He would point out to the right hon. Gentleman, however, that the local authorities could not establish sectarian schools, and it was not proposed by this Clause that they should, and, if it were, words already accepted by the House had put it out of their power to do so. All that was proposed in this Amendment was that where the local authority were informed, either by the request of the parents or scholars, or from their knowledge of the requirements of the neighbourhood, that special religious teaching was wanted in the case of certain scholars, then, not at the expense of the ratepayers, but of those who required the teaching, such teaching might be given. Of course, the needs of the parents seemed to cover most of the occasions out of which the necessity for special religious teaching might arise; but there might be cases where there was a disinclination on the part of parents to express their wants, or, from the fact that the pupils in these secondary schools would be drawn from a wide area, the parents might not be present in collective form to make their application to the local authority, but the local authority might become aware of the need from communications addressed to them. On those grounds, believing that the words "on other grounds" would somewhat improve the Clause, and feeling sure that the local authority was excluded from the power of establishing sectarian schools, he hoped the House would not accept the Amendment.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said he did not think the speech of the hon. Gentleman had elucidated very greatly what the words "on other grounds" meant. The hon. Gentleman had said that these words allowed persons of all denominations to come in and give sectarian teaching in the secondary schools, and it might be a reasonable thing to permit them to come in where there was a real and genuine desire that they should be admitted. The only other reason given by the hon. Gentleman was that there might be a disinclination on the part of the parents to state their desire. That was the argument of the Church. The Church knew what the parents wanted, "because there were so many Church people in the district." But there was really no way of ascertaining the wishes of the parents except by a statement by the parents themselves of their wishes. He would appeal to those hon. Members opposite who had said they were in favour of the parents having a word upon this matter, but who had opposed every concrete case put by the Opposition in which they said the parents were the people who ought really to decide as to what religion their children should be brought up in—he would appeal to them on this occasion, which was the last chance they would have of voting on this question, to vote in favour of the parents. That was all this Amendment asked, because what was likely to occur under this Amendment if it was passed as it stood? There had been an Amendment inserted by this House giving the Voluntary Schools Associations representation on the education committees, and naturally those representatives would attend solely to the interests of their own particular faith. There would be every possible argument that these schools should have a Church of England tinge, and if they wanted to avoid any quarrels with regard to this matter, other denominations would have to have an equal opportunity.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought there was much force in the objections to the Amendment to the Amendment which had been urged by his hon. friend the Secretary to the Board of Education. But he was not sure it was not prolonging discussion in the House to retain the words proposed to be left out. He had been impressed by the argument that possibly if the words were retained they would give excuses to the education committees, and perhaps to the education authorities themselves, to indulge in these ecclesiastical controversies of which the House had heard so much during the past eight months. He had done his best so to frame the Bill as to save the local authorities from having to deal with these most difficult and invidious questions; and it was possible that if the words were left in they would give excuses for the raising at meetings of the local authorities of the very kind of discussions which it was most desirable should be avoided. On the other hand, under the alteration proposed in the Amendment, the County Council could only act upon the application of parents, which, as it would be a definite request for a definite thing, could hardly lead to any religious differences; and the Clause in that form would, he hoped, work quite smoothly. Under the circumstances, after having consulted with his hon. friend the Secretary to the Board of Education, he was ready to accept, on behalf of the Government, the Amendment proposed by the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) regretted that his right hon. friend should have accepted the Amendment. It was inconsistent with his right hon. friend's attitude of approval towards the Scottish system. All the arguments to which his right hon. friend had assented in reference to this Amendment could be urged against any system which allowed a popularly-elected body to control religious education. Hon. Members opposite had declared from time to time that, if popular control were once adopted, they would have no objection to a denominational system. What was proposed in the Lords Amendment was a controlled denominational system. Each body would be left to judge for itself. The only conceivable ground upon which it could be opposed was that denominational religious instruction was a sort of vice which could hardly be repressed by law, but of which everyone should be heartily ashamed, and to which the State could give no countenance whatever. He was surprised that the Opposition had not moved, and that the Government had not assented to, an Amendment declaring that contracts for the giving of denominational religious instruction should be treated as contracts for the committal of vice. He and his friends were unable to accept the Amendment because it was against the fundamental principles of their views of denominational instruction, and they must therefore divide the House.

Question put, and negatived.

4.25. MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I beg to move after the word "schools" to insert, "at such time and under such conditions as the Council deem desirable." It is not clear at present whether the local authority have that power.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no objection to those words.

Amendment made to the Lords Amendment—

"By inserting, after the last Amendment, the words 'at such times and under such conditions as the Council think desirable.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he had another Amendment to propose, at the end to insert "provided that no Council shall afford facilities to one denomination which it is not proposed to extend equally to any other denomination, when so desired by parents of scholars." What he desired to provide against was that one favoured denomination should have facilities extended to it which would be denied to other denominations. If this experiment was to be made in this matter, it should, he thought, be an experiment on fair and equal conditions. He was sure the Government would admit that this was a fair Amendment. It was not a proposal to allow a school to be converted into a sectarian school; it simply gave to those parents who desired it the opportunity of securing for their children the religious instruction that they preferred. The matter was so obvious that he would not elaborate it.

Lord Hugh Cecil.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words 'provided that no Council shall afford facilities to one denomination which it is not prepared to extend to any other denomination, when so desired by parents of scholars.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be added to the Lords Amendment."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (SIR ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness, Burghs) thought the words, as moved, would tend unduly to prevent an authority making use of the power intended to be conferred upon them by the Amendment. By providing that no authority should exercise this power in favour of one denomination, unless it was prepared to exercise it in favour of any other denomination in respect of which there was a demand, the House would leave out of sight the fact that the circumstances might be extremely different. There might be a very large number of children in the case of one denomination, while there were only a very small number belonging to a variety of other sects, and the Council might not think it desirable to exercise its power in regard to the latter. What the hon. Member really intended was that the Council should not in exercising this power show any unfair discrimination as between different denominations. That was not the way in which the words of the proposal would work, as they might exclude the consideration of all the circumstances. As to putting in words to the effect that no unfair discrimination should be made, he thought that such words were unnecessary. It would be the duty of every local education authority to deal fairly by all religious denominations. He therefore submitted, not only that the words of the Amendment were undesirable in form, but that they would, if inserted, cast a slur on the authorities.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT thought the remarks of the Attorney General constituted a strong argument in favour of the Amendment. The hon. and learned Member had said that it might discourage a local authority from exercising this power in favour of any one particular denomination. In many counties it would be easy to extend this power to the Protestant denominations, but very difficult to do so in the case of Roman Catholics. One of the few merits of the Bill as it left the House of Commons was that it kept Part II. out of the religious difficulty; it laid down the same rules as applied to elementary schools—viz., the undenominational principle of the Cowper-Temple Clause, and that clearly prevented the introduction of sectarian controversies into higher education. The proposal of the House of Lords entirely destroyed that, and made sectarian disputes part and parcel of higher education under Part II. It was clear that the various denominations might demand the benefit of this Clause in order to introduce their denominational controversies into the sphere of higher education, one of the first consequences of which would be to indispose County Councils to have anything to do with the Bill, because it would involve them in determining as between conflicting sects. Various sects would seek by this Clause to have their denominational teaching in the higher schools from which hitherto it had been excluded, and, according to the reply of the Attorney General, the most numerous sect would get the power while the less numerous would not, which, being interpreted, meant of course that the Anglicans would get the benefit of the Clause, and that the smaller sects, whether Protestant Nonconformists or Roman Catholics, would be excluded from it. That was the doctrine of the Attorney General. Fancy putting on the County Councils, whom they desired to undertake this work of higher education, the duty of determining which of the sects should be permitted to teach in the schools! The most extraordinary thing about the matter was that the Clause was originally introduced by the Secretary to the Board of Education, its whole object being to put these schools on the same footing as the provided schools for elementary education. As amended, an entirely different principle was being laid down. Why should there be one rule with reference to denominational teaching in respect to elementary education and another in respect to higher education? The introduction of sectarian controversies would be extremely injurious to the system of higher education, and he should certainly vote for the Amendment of his hon. friend.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought the objection taken by the Attorney General to the proposal of the hon. Member was a sound one. What was desired was to avoid unfair discrimination or preference as between one sect and another. On that, the whole House were agreed. As to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, he thought, if he might say so, that a great deal of it was relevant to the Amendment as a whole rather than to the particular proposal of the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs. The House ought not to accept the proposal, because it was open to precisely the objection urged by the hon. and learned Member. The local authority would take this as a Parliamentary direction that, however many or few the children might be, or whatever the circumstances of the schools might be, they were to act in precisely the same way—not with equal fairness, but in precisely the same way. He thought the view of the hon. Gentleman and of the whole House would be met by a proviso to the following effect—

"Provided that in the exercise of this power no unfair preference should be shown to any religious denomination."

LORD HUGH CECIL suggested that "unfair discrimination" was better than "unfair preference." A religious denomination could be treated unfairly in two ways—by preference, or by the opposite of preference. A strong Nonconformist body might make a discrimination as against the Church of England. That would be giving an unfair preference, not to a particular denomination, but to all denominations except one.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) suggested that, as this was the principle of the most-favoured-nation Clause, the words of the most-favoured-nation Clause might possibly solve the difficulty.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE expressed his willingness to withdraw his Amendment in favour of the words suggested by the Prime Minister.

Proposed Amendment to Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment made to the Lords Amendment—

"By adding at the end thereof the words, 'Provided that in the exercise of this power no unfair preference shall be shown to any religious denomination.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment as amended."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

(4.50.) MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) thought the Government were making a mistake in agreeing to the Lords Amendment. He wished hon. Members to remember what had been their experience in regard to the Welsh Intermediate Education Act. Hon. Members from Wales had again and again told them that one of the great secrets of the success of that Act was because the schools had been placed under the Cowper-Temple Clause, and they had never had to discuss the religious difficulty. The Charity Commissioners had also had to deal with a similar matter. In their endowed schemes, except where it was specifically denominational and wherever it was possible, they practically introduced the Cowper-Temple Clause. That Clause had worked very satisfactorily, and it was a great pity that the local education authorities should be invited to do something different. He should like to ask the Government who wanted this alteration. Where was the genuine demand of the parents for this alteration? He could understand the members of the Roman Catholic Church wanting something different, because they required a Roman Catholic atmosphere, and they could not have that in any school provided by the local authority under this Act. Therefore they could not meet their case. The noble Lord said that some hon. Members appeared to treat denominational education as something to be shunned and avoided. To most of them it appeared perfectly possible to arrange an undenominational religious curriculum which would be satisfactory to the great majority of parents. He thought a system of that sort would work far better than that the local authorities should from time to time be invited to have this apple of discord introduced into their discussions. As he thought it would not tend to the better working of the Bill, he hoped the House would not accept this Amendment of the Lords.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said he thought it did not take the House of Commons very long to arrive at the conclusion that it was not a desirable thing to introduce into our system of secondary education, and almost without any discussion, this Clause, but it had been so altered as to make the Cowper-Temple Clause applicable to secondary as well as to elementary education. Before the Bill went to another place it was in this respect of a symmetrical character. A great many references had been made to the Scotch and other systems which gave a right of entry to the ministers of various denominations, but he took it that the main principles of this Bill were clear as originally introduced, that, at any rate as regarded elementary schools provided by the local authority, they would be free from any denominational teaching and subject only to the Cowper-Temple Clause; and that for those who desired and legitimately desired a denominational atmosphere, they were to rely upon the non-provided schools which the various denominations had themselves erected. He could not see why, in another place, that principle which, after all, was one of the main principles of this Bill, should have been departed from not in regard to elementary education, where he admitted the demand was possible, and might be extremely urgent, but in secondary education, where, as far as he understood the situation, there was very little or no demand upon the question at all. He was quite sure that if this demand were submitted to the local authorities throughout the country, and if they were asked whether they wanted to have the option of giving these religious facilities to the ministers of various denominations they would give, if not a unanimous, at any rate nearly a unanimous response to the effect that as far as they were concerned they desired to be relieved entirely from the odious task of deciding to what particular denomination they were to show, or not to show, preference. As regarded this right of entry, upon which so much stress had been laid, and possibly rightly laid, by those who desired to see fair play to the parents of all denominations, surely it would be better for this House and for Parliament, both in elementary and secondary education, to insist that all schools provided by the local authorities shall be absolutely free from any responsibility between one denomination and another, and that, pending some more complete settlement of their national system of education, the responsibility for providing the atmosphere for the teaching of religious education whichthe various denominations desired, should be left to the denominations themselves. He felt strongly on this point. He regretted that in another place the Government should have departed from what he thought sound principle, and a principle which would have been welcomed by the local authorities throughout the country. Speaking as a member of the technical instruction committee in Liverpool, he thought there was no desire upon the part of those who administered elementary or secondary education to have more to decide in matters of religious difference than they had now. They desired to avoid as far as possible increasing the extremely complex burdens which would be laid on them under the Bill.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said that, from the point of view of the secondary teacher, he could foresee that this would be very impracticable indeed. Looking at this from the practical point of view, he believed that if this stood in the Bill it would prove absolutely abortive. He did not think they could get the parents of pupils in secondary schools to respond to the appeals for denominational teaching. He did not believe this would have any effect whatever except that it would be a useful experiment to show how far this demand was genuine. It was only the thin edge of the wedge. The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich failed to get it into the elementary school system in this House, but the friends of denominational teaching had been successful in getting it into the secondary school system in another place. He believed that the parents were satisfied with what went on now. Professsional and secondary school people were not going to respond to the sort of arguments which poorer people responded to when the appeal was made to them. He was prepared to see this stand in the Bill, and he believed that experience would furnish an admirable reply which would confound the noble Lord. It would be seen that the professional and educated classes having had this opportunity had not availed themselves of it.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON said it might be a valuable experiment, but it might also be a dangerous precedent for the future. The Amendment was a very one-sided proposal. It only affected the right of entry to the provided schools and made no balancing proposal in regard to the non-provided schools. He thought it should have affected the right of entry to all classes of schools. His point was that they were interfering with the Cowper-Temple Clause as with regard to the provided schools and doing nothing as to the non-provided schools. Justice was to be done as to one set of people while maintaining the injustice as to another set of people. By the Bill as it stood the local authority would have the right, where colleges were provided, to establish denominational hostels. Having given them that right it was too much to break down the Cowper-Temple Clause and enable teachers to go inside the colleges and give denominational instruction to their particular students. The noble Lord suggested that what was here proposed was somewhat similar to the Scotch system. He denied that this was in agreement with the

Scotch system. The Scotch system included all schools, but this Clause included only the provided schools. It seemed to him dangerous to infringe the Cowper-Temple Clause on one side without seeking to do justice on the other side.

Mr. NUSSEY (Pontefract) said the only alternative to having no religious instruction at all in the schools was to allow all sects, of whatever creed, to teach their particular form of religion if there was a demand for the instruction. His hon. friend objected to the Amendment because it would only affect one portion of the schools. He quite agreed that would be the case, and he should have liked to see the Amendment carried further. They all knew that the Cowper-Temple Clause did not satisfy everybody. It did not satisfy the Roman Catholics or the Church of England, and he doubted whether it satisfied the Nonconformists. He thought it would be far better to allow any religious instruction to be given which the parents desired if they were willing to pay for it. On the whole he preferred the Lords Amendment with the modification, which he hoped the Government would be able to accept.

Mr. BRYCE said he objected to the whole Amendment, because he thought that the less the secondary schools had to do with questions of sectarian education the better. Although the difficulties in the secondary schools were not quite the same as those which arose in elementary schools, still any arrangements for bringing in teachers of denominational doctrines from outside would interfere with the proper position of the ordinary teachers in the schools. The teacher was the proper person to give religious instruction; and to introduce another was very much to be deprecated, because it would lead to inefficiency and be a cause of complaint to the local education authority and the managers.

(5.13.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 231; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 637.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst. Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beckett, Ernest William
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew. James Laurence
Carson. Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants., W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael

Heaton, John Henniker
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse,RtHnH(Somerset,E
Hope,J.F(Sheffield.Brightside
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Johnstone, Heywood
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, George
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law,Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky,Rt.Hn.WilliamEdw.H.
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Macartney,RtHn.W.GEllison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Maconochie, A. W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Govern, T.
M‘Kean, John
M‘Killop, James (Stirlingshire
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray,RtHn.AGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley,Hon.M W.(Stalybridge
Ridley,S.Forde(Bethnal Green
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Cletment Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley,EdwardJas.(Somerset
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thompson,DrEC(Monagh'n,N
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E(Taunton
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-undLyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Worsley-Taylor,HenryWilson
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen,CharlesP.(Glouc.,Stroud
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dyke,Rt.Hon.SirWilliamHart
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans,SirFrancisH(Maidstone
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt,Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard,J.(Midd.,Tottenham)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Kearley, Hudson E.
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Louth, Thomas
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley,Rt.Hn.John(Montrose
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington
Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington,Lieut.-Col.Richard
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos.Myles
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tyneside

Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,RtHn.C.R(Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,J A(Glamorgan,Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson,Fred.W.(Norfolk.Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 3, line 14, after 'them,' insert 'a body of managers consisting of.'"

"In page 3, line 20, leave out 'representing local authorities.'"

"In page 3, line 21, leave out 'also as provided in this Act,' and insert."

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 4, after 'managers,' insert 'but no directions given under this provision shall be such as to interfere with reasonable facilities for religious instruction during school hours.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'during school hours,' and to insert the words 'either at the beginning or at the end or at the beginning and the end of the meeting of the school.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Proposed Amendment to the Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 20, after 'authority,' insert 'provided that all damage due to fair wear and tear in the use of any room in the school-house for the purpose of a public elementary school shall be made good by the local education authority [but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds].'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he proposed to move the omission of the word "all" in order to insert "such," but before he did so he desired to ask Mr. Speaker's ruling as to whether this Amendment was not a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons. He knew that in order to avoid that decision the Lords had inserted the last two lines of the Amendment; but even with those words he suggested that a burden might be thrown on the endowment and the fees, with the indirect result that less money would be derived for other purposes than fees and endowments, and that so, indirectly, a burden would be thrown on the public funds. He submitted that, as a matter of privilege, the Amendment was out of order.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think the Amendment is out of order. No doubt it would have been out of order without the words at the end, but I think those words prevent there being any breach of privilege.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that, that being Mr. Speaker's ruling, he would move as an Amendment the omission of the word "all" in order to insert "such," his intention being afterwards to move a further Amendment, so as to provide that the damage in the use of the school rooms for elementary school purposes to be made good by the local authority should be "such" "as the local authority consider to be" due to fair wear and tear. As the Lords Amendment stood at the present moment the local authority was to bear the whole expense of wear and tear, although the school rooms were only in their hands for a third, or at most a half, of the time. During the evenings, with the possible exception of three, the school would be in the hands of the managers, and also on Saturday, during holiday time, and on Sundays. Was it just to say that the wear and tear attributable to concerts, balls, entertainments, and Sunday schools, exclusively in the interest of the management and the denomination, should be borne by the local authority and the ratepayers? Did the Bishops want them to keep up a kind of a concert-hall and ball-room in each parish for the use of their denomination? If there was any wear and tear which they considered was due to the use of the school as a school, that might be paid for, but it should be confined to that. Then, who was to judge how much of the wear and tear was attributable to Sunday school or penny-reading uses, and how much to day school use? At present no one was appointed to assess the damage, neither the Board of Education, the local authority, nor the managers. Were the managers going to send in the bill to the local authority? He contended that it was a matter for the local authority to decide, but at any rate someone ought to decide it. He submitted that the House was entitled to hear what the Government interpretation of the Clause was.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the word 'all,' and insert the word 'such.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'all' stand part of the Lords Amendment."

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): Would the hon. Gentleman say what he proposes should come afterwards, because this is rather important.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he intended to move afterwards to insert the words "such damage as the local authority consider to be due to fair wear and tear of the school."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he had been asked how the Amendment would read in connection with the rest of the Clause. The effect of the Amendment, as he took it, was this. As between the managers and the local education authority it would throw upon that authority the responsibility for some portion of the repairs. The general obligation to keep the school-house in repair was thrown upon the managers, and the Amendment of the Lords threw upon the local education authority the liability to make good to the managers such portion of the repairs as were caused by wear and tear from the use of the building as a public elementary school. How was the amount to be determined? If the two parties did not agree, obviously the question must be decided by some one. [AN HON. MEMBER: The Bishop; and laughter.] The hon. Member proposed that it should be decided by one party to the controversy.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Who would order the repairs in the first instance?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that that was not the question they were now dealing with. The hon. Gentleman suggested this question should be decided by one party to the controversy—the local education authority. The Clause, however, provided further on that any question arising under this section between the local education authority and the managers, should be decided by the Board of Education. It would fall on them to decide any such question.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, who was very indistinctly heard in the Press Gallery, was understood to say that he held that the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs would not be unsatisfactory. It conceded, to a great extent, the principle for which the supporters of voluntary schools were contending. The practical application of it would be greatly to relieve the managers from the burdens which they laboured under. It had been his good fortune to have a very large acquaintance with the voluntary schools of this country, and he knew the position of the managers. He desired the House to understand how vital it was to the schools that the managers should be relieved of even a portion of this expense. There were many cases where the expense of repairs exceeded the amount of the subscriptions, and knowing, as he did, most touching instances of the efforts made to keep schools going—Roman Catholic schools, Church of England schools, as well as schools of other religious bodies—he pressed on the House the duty of relieving them of some of these expenses.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that what was proposed here was that it was to be the managers who were to spend the money, and the local authority was t find it. This could not be right, for the managers were not representative of the general body of ratepayers in any sense of the word. The local authority were not on the spot, and the question of wear and tear could only be known to the managers. He thought the House wished to know what were the views of hon. Gentlemen who represented County Councils and were advocates of the interests of the ratepayers of this change in the Bill, which threw on the ratepayers the obligation which it was the intention of the Government should be borne by the voluntary subscribers. He desired to know whether hon. Gentlemen opposite who were going directly to vote in favour of casting this obligation on the ratepayers, and make the masters of the expenditure, not the local authority, but the managers, had anything to urge in its favour. This was a very serious matter for the country districts. The man who lived in a £5 cottage would find his rates raised as it was, but the Government were going to make the local authorities find the money and not allow them to spend it. The conclusion that these people would draw was that they were going to pay an education rate they had never paid before, and were going to be allowed no voice in the spending of it. The persons finding the money ought to have control over the expenditure.

SIR JOHN DORRINGTON (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) quite agreed that the local authorities ought to have the control of this expenditure, and that was exactly what the Amendment of the hon. Member for Carnarvon effected. He had taken some interest in this question, and in Committee had moved a similar Amendment, because he thought the same principle as applied to landlord and tenant ought to apply here. For that reason he was very glad his hon. friend had moved this Amendment. He was quite aware that this change must throw an additional charge on the country, but he thought it was an equitable charge, and that it would not be a very large one, and he hoped the Amendment would be carried.

(6.0.) MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) stated, as showing the opinion of the County Councils on the matter, that at the last meeting of the County Councils Association, a resolution was passed to the effect that in the opinion of the Councils no further charges should be thrown on the rates by this Bill. The great danger to the administration of the Bill in country districts would arise from the weight of the rate rather than from any other cause. He hardly agreed with his right hon. friend that the addition would be very slight. He conceived that the amount of additional burden thrown on the local authority would have some correspondence to the amount of relief afforded to the managers, and if it amounted to anything like 2s. a scholar, as was suggested in the House of Lords, it would mean an extra ½d. rate in the county he represented. He should vote for the Amendment of the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs, not only because of the danger involved in the additional rate, but also because of the endless field of dispute that would be opened up by the proposal in the Bill between the local authority and the managers. He could conceive of no more fertile source of dispute than the question of whether certain damage arose from fair wear and tear or from some other cause such as defective construction or unfair use. It was a most extraordinary thing that the local authority should have to pay for the fair wear and tear, and not for unfair damage done to a school. It was said that in case of dispute these matters would be referred to the Board of Education. He desired to relieve the Board of Education from any further burdens in this respect, and he was quite certain that that department did not wish its inspectors to have to decide between local authorities and managers as to whether certain damage was due to fair wear and tear or not.

MR. BRYCE hoped the Government would accept the Amendment, as they would thereby remove a source of much trouble and friction. The fairest way would be to leave the local education authority to determine the matter; they were sure to deal with the question in a fair and liberal manner. The feeling of the local authorities was the first thing to be considered, and when the House had their deliberate resolution expressing their unwillingness that any further charge should be thrown on the rates, they might conclude, *a fortiori*, that they were exceedingly unwilling to have any further humiliation inflicted upon them by being subjected in the matter to the Board of Education. The Board of Education would be at a distance; the local education authority would be at a distance; but the managers, being on the spot, under the vague terms of the Clause, would be able to put almost anything they liked under the head of wear and tear. The whole weight of argument was in favour of treating the local authority with proper respect, and leaving this matter to their determination.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) supported the proposed Amendment. From his experience in the Education Department, he thought it would be unnecessarily burdening that Board to throw upon it the work of deciding how much whitewash and paint was required in each of 12,000 schools. Complete justice would be done by leaving the matter to the determination of the local authority.

MR. JAMES HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside) pointed out that the difficulty referred to by previous speakers already existed in the Bill. Under sub-Section (2) of Clause 7, questions in dispute had to go to the Board of Education, and if some questions, why not all?

MR. T. M. HEALY said the Amendment would make a considerable change in the Bill from the Catholic point of view. No doubt as between the different Protestant denominations the County Council or local authority would give absolutely fair play, but if those belonging to the unpopular religion—which, of course, the Catholic religion was in England—had to appeal to the local authority, this Amendment would make an enormous difference. It was said there would be an appeal to the Board of Education on all these matters. Whether that was so or not in this particular case he was not certain, but even if it were, the same difficulty would then be thrown on the Board of Education, because they would have to decide as to every pot of whitewash or paint that was used on the school. The hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs had suggested that the difficulty was insurmountable, whereas, as had been pointed out, the very same difficulty existed later on in the Clause. He could understand that many hon. Members were anxious that the matter should be dealt with in the nature of a compromise. He, however, had carefully watched the course of the debate, and had noticed that the Opposition, instead of being satisfied when Amendments were made, like the horse-leech simply asked for "more;" they divided against the Amendments as amended, and the Government, instead of gaining anything from yielding to the Opposition, simply involved themselves in further entanglements. If the Government were afraid of the constituencies, as had been alleged, they might as well be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb. The Chief Secretary at Dover recently advised the House of Commons to "go blind" on this matter. They certainly had not been going blind that evening, as a considerable amount of light had been thrown by the tactics of which the hon. Member for Carnarvon was such a master. If Amendments such as these were to be accepted, what return were the supporters of the Bill to get. [Laughter.] Hon. Members laughed, but was not the House of Commons a sort of legislative Stock Exchange, where Members got one thing in return for giving up another? That, at any rate, was how Irishmen generally got anything. For himself, therefore, while appreciating the anxiety shown by the county authorities with regard to the rate, he respectfully hoped the Government would not yield in this matter.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. and learned Member had suggested that although various Amendments had been accepted, the House were no nearer the conclusion of their labours. He would not argue that question, but he could assure the hon. and learned Member that he had not recommended to the House the adoption of a single Amendment for any reason except that it was either absolutely innocuous or that it was an improvement to the Bill. No man accustomed to Parliamentary life would deny that there were cases in which Amendments of another character might be worth acceptance by the Government as part of a great compromise. But no such transaction had been made today. Nothing of the kind had been suggested by the other side, and nothing of the kind had been adopted by the Government, so that the hon. Member for North Louth might make himself easy on that point. As to the actual Amendment before the House, there appeared to be on the Ministerial side a considerable body of opinion in favour of it. It was a matter that would have to be decided by the House for itself, but he confessed to a feeling of surprise that it should be thought a convenient thing to make the local authority the judge in its own cause, to decide on the precise amount which it was to contribute towards the carrying out of the legal obligation which would be thrown upon it if the main Amendment were accepted. Of course, if in practice the Board of Education were to have sent up to it for decision, week after week, quarrels between the education authority and the managers as to the exact quantity of paint or whitewash that was to be paid for, the burden would be intolerable. The education authority and the managers would, no doubt, come to a working arrangement as to the amount of damage done according to the share in the buildings which each party respectively enjoyed. There might be difficulties at first, but it would all work out right in the end. He must again remind the House that in the Bill as it was sent up to the House of Lords a precisely analogous question was left to be decided by the education authority. In sub-Section 2, of Clause 7, hon. Gentlemen would find provision made in regard to damage caused to furniture or to the room other than damage arising from fair wear and tear, and all disputes arising under Section 7 were to be determined by the Board of Education. Therefore, they had really already decided that the Education Department could deal with these questions. In the circumstances, subject to anything that might fall from other Gentlemen in the course of the argument, he would be disposed to say that, while the practical difficulties of the Amendment were not of such a character as to make it unworkable, it was really rather a serious thing, if the Amendment was to be taken at all, to turn the education authority into judges of their own financial liabilities.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said he should certainly vote against the hon. Member for Carnarvon's Amendment. The First Lord of the Treasury had clearly pointed out what were the facts of the case. In the event of a dispute as to what was fair wear and tear, the Amendment would not allow an appeal, but as the Amendment of the Lords now stood, the managers had a right of appeal to the Board of Education. He hoped the House would agree to continue that appeal and allow it to remain in the Bill. It was all very well to say that the Education Department could not attend to matters of this kind, but what was the use of a Department for Education if it could not settle such disputes. If this Amendment were accepted as it now stood, very few cases would come before the Education Department. He spoke on behalf of the Catholic schools of this country, and he hoped the House would refuse to make the local education authority the judge of its own case, but allow in cases of dispute an appeal to the Board of Education. The local education authority was represented on the board of managers of the school, and that ought to be sufficient to prevent those disputes. It was not possible, on the hon. Member for Carnarvon's Amendment, to discuss the whole policy of the Lords Amendments, but this Amendment appeared to be the thin end of the wedge, and inasmuch as this question was one of vital importance to Catholic schools, he should vote against the Amendment.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he wished to enter a protest against the assumptions of the hon. Member for North Louth, in reference to the attitude of County and Borough Councils in England towards Roman Catholics in dealing with this matter. His hon. friend the Member for North Louth seemed to entertain the opinion that in Great Britain there was that strong line of administrative difference between the Roman Catholic faith and the Protestant faith, which perhaps unfortunately existed to an extent in Ireland to which he himself was not competent to form an opinion upon. He was entirely opposed to the notion which the hon. Member appeared to entertain that the County Councils and the Borough Councils of England would allow their religious opinions to interfere with their administrative actions in regard to this Bill. He conceived it to be utterly impossible in the most Protestant county in England that any injustice would be done by English public men to any great community like the community of the Roman Catholic faith, and no class of men would be more indignant at treating the Roman Catholics unfairly than those public men in the counties and boroughs of England. Therefore, he thought the Roman Catholic Members of this House might dismiss from their minds the idea that they would be subjected to any disability or disadvantage in the administration of this Act on account of their faith. The Prime Minister had assumed that there was going to be a conflict of authority upon points upon which he thought no conflict would ever arise. The hon. Baronet the Member for Gloucestershire had put the case quite fairly. He believed that the County and Borough Councils would regard this as a purely administrative matter, and they would do what was right between the conflicting parties. If they were to have an appeal to the Board of Education, which would mean the sending down of an inspector to inquire upon the spot in order to decide the damage done to a carpet, or a desk, or perhaps the carving of some boy's name on the furniture of the school, he thought they were using a very large hammer to crack a nut. He believed that the County and Borough Councils were quite capable of doing what was fair between man and man, and he should support the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon as an administrative improvement.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said he quite agreed with everything that had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman opposite. He was one of those who voted against putting structural repairs on the local authority, and he should certainly have to vote against the Lords Amendment as it stood. If the Education Board was brought in upon this question the only result would be that it would throw a large amount of expense upon the localities concerned. He welcomed the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Carnarvon, and he was most anxious that it should be carried.

DR. MACNAMARA said he was surprised that the Government had not jumped at this Amendment. What was the position which the Government took at the outset? It was that the managers out of funds provided by them should keep the school in good repair. The Secretary to the Board of Education stated that this was fair and reasonable, and the hon. Member for Stretford expressed the sincere hope that denominationalists would not try to minimise the obligation laid upon them. He thought it was a little hard that the Government had been driven by such hard taskmasters. The principle now laid down was that the local authority should make themselves responsible for the repairs. The Lords Amendment provided for a part of the repairs falling on the local authority, a principle which those on his side had resisted all along. He strongly recommended hon. Gentlemen opposite to agree with their adversaries while they were in the way with them.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid) said he had heard the speeches of the hon. Member for Carnarvon, and the hon. Baronet the Member for the Tewkesbury Division, and he did not think that before in the whole of the discussions upon this Bill they had found those two hon. Members in agreement, for they were the leaders of two entirely different schools of thought. His hon. and learned friend the Member for Carnarvon took radical views, while the right hon. Baronet took ultra Tory views, and consequently he had to ask himself what was the meaning of all this? He thought it meant that those who could not vote for the Amendment of the Lords, which was entirely against the bargain made in this House, were going to vote for the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend behind him. It was perfectly true that if the Lords Amendment was going to be carried, the Amendment on it of his hon. friend was rather an improvement, because it minimised to some extent the amount of the repairs, and gave the local authority the opportunity of deciding the matter themselves. It was abundantly clear now, from the speech of the hon. Member opposite, that the Amendment was adopted on the other side—not by the Government—in order that hon. Members might have a bridge, and that they might be able to tell their constituents, whom they feared, that they could not vote for the Amendment of the Lords in its entirety. [Cries of "No."] Well they would see. They wished to be able to tell their constituents that they voted for the excellent Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Carnarvon, a strong opponent of the Bill. He entirely objected to this state of flux on the Amendment now before the House unless they had it on all the Amendments. On the Amendments which had come down from another place they ought to have the views of the Government definitely stated. It was not fair of the Government to say on the most important Amendment which had come down "We will give you an open hand." He gathered that the Prime Minister's private view was rather against this Amendment. His hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon had asked him, *sotto voce*, "Why was it accepted?" He thought he had pointed out most clearly that it would be accepted by the other side, because it made it easy for them to vote for the Lords Amendment. Under those circumstances, he would be compelled to vote against it.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.) said the Board of Education had been able for thirty years to assist the voluntary schools in the matter of repairs, and he saw no reason why they should not continue to give that assistance.

*MR. DUKE (Plymouth) thought the Amendment should be accepted in the interests of peace and of education. He could not imagine anything more disastrous to the public life of the country than that there should be a period of strife extending over years between the managers of the non-provided schools and the local authority as to whether certain matters of repair, of whitewashing and painting, for instance, were to be paid for by one or the other, with an appeal to the Board of Education, not where the necessity of the case required it, but where there was friction between the two authorities. He did not know why the hon. Member for Carnarvon should have proposed this Amendment, but all he could say was there were excellent reasons why Members on that side of the House should support it. It might be that the hon. Gentleman proposed it with a view to the peace of those who were to administer education. He was confident it must have the result of excluding from the area of friction between the managers of the non-provided schools and the local authority large and constantly recurring questions. The amount of repairs for which each was to be answerable was in itself a small matter, and if there were any independent tribunal to refer it to in the district, it would be quite an easy matter to settle. The Lords Amendment, however, might set up a source of irritation and friction between the managers and the local authority, and he should hail with satisfaction a proposal leaving it to the sense of fairness, if not generosity, of the local bodies and managers to decide.

SIR H CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The hon. and learned Member for Plymouth said that this is a small matter, or used some expression of that kind. I cannot get it out of my mind that the Bishop of Manchester——

*MR. DUKE said that what he stated was that the Amendment dealt with small matters, but that it might lead to a great deal of friction.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It dealt with small matters! But I say that we must remember that the Bishop of Manchester estimated the grant to the voluntary schools by his Amendment at no less than £350,000 a year. That is his estimate, but I do not endorse it. I think it is a considerably exaggerated estimate, but never mind. That is the estimate he put upon it, and he, being the author of the Amendment, ought to be an authority on the subject. I quite appreciate the liberal diversity of opinion on the question of tactics that has arisen between my hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon and my hon. friend the Member for Mid-Glamorgan. The whole situation we are in with regard to this Amendment from the Lords is grotesque in the last degree. We are discussing an Amendment which in itself is ridiculous. I had almost said it was the greatest imposture that could be perpetrated on the House of Commons. It is not the less of an imposture that it is perpetrated, as it were, with a wink and an intimation that we must not be alarmed because it is an imposture. When any Amendment is moved, I confess I bear in mind what will be the ultimate result after all the negotiations and manœuvres with regard to this Clause are finished. How is it likely that this Amendment of the Lords will be met? When an Amendment like the one before us is moved, which will have the effect of mitigating and modifying the ultimate consequences of the Lords Amendment, then we come to the difficulty exemplified by the speeches of my hon. friends. On the one hand they desire to make the ultimate evil as small as possible; on the other hand, if you make it as small as possible you, in a tactical sense, weaken your position for the purpose of the next debate and the division which is to come. I confess that I range myself with those who look to the ultimate result rather than the tactical consequence in this House. I have derived a good deal of amusement from the speeches made by some of my hon. friends opposite whom I could point to, and which disclose the true purpose of the action they are going to take. But let us bear in mind that this is an Amendment from the point of view of those who dislike the whole thing, who are opposed to the Bishop of Manchester's Amendment, and who think it is a breach of the bargain that was made. [Cries of "No!"] and who think that it is something in addition to the price that was to be paid.

Sir WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston): It is no price.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Has it not any pecuniary effect?

Sir WILLIAM TOMLINSON: I say no bargain has ever been made.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I will give the hon. Baronet the benefit of the word bargain; but I will still say that the Bishop of Manchester's Amendment is an addition to the price that was settled in this House and with which we were led to understand the friends of the voluntary schools were satisfied. It is on that ground that we object to it. It is because we think the arrangement was too beneficial to them before. Now we have an Amendment put forward with the view not only of putting the administration of the matter on a more reasonable and possible footing, but of mitigating the effect of what is proposed. While my eyes are perfectly open to the effect of the tactical results that will arise, I think the ultimate effect is of much more importance, and therefore I will vote with my hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon.

Mr. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said the two halves of the right hon. Gentleman's speech were opposed to one another. It was quite clear that if this Amendment was carried the probability was that the Amendment from the Lords would be carried too. He hoped hon. Members would pause before they voted against the present Amendment.

(6.43.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 165; Noes, 194. (Division List No. 638.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther, H. T.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bigwood, James
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)

Clancy, John Joseph
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley-
Delany, William
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fr'd Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fisher, William Hayes
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, George
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rea, Russell
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, H C (Northumb. Tyneside
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thompson, Dr. E C (Monagh'n, N
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Griffith-Boscawen and Mr. Galloway.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred, (Carmarthen)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry

Fuller, J. M. F.
Garfit, William
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.)
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hobhouse, Rt. Hn H (Somerset, E
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnstone, Heywood
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (Northants
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Thornton, Percy M.
Toulmin, George
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Lloyd-George and Sir John Brunner.

Proposed words inserted in the Lords Amendment.

Amendment made to the Lords Amendment—

"By inserting, after the word 'damage,' the words 'as local authority consider to be.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was going to move to insert after "schoolhouse" the words "as an," so as to make it clear that the wear and tear was due only in respect of the use of the schoolhouse as an elementary school.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR asked what the hon. Gentleman thought was the weakness of the words actually in the Lords Amendment from his point of view.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said he would not persevere with this Amendment to the Amendment.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) moved to strike out the words in line 3 of the Lords Amendment, "for the purpose of a public elementary school," in order to insert "for educational purposes."

Mr. JAMES HOPE rose to a point of order, and

Mr SPEAKER held the Amendment to be out of order.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON rose to move the omission of the words "but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional burden on any public funds."

Mr. TREVELYAN rose on a point of order. These words, he said, had been put in confessedly to cover the question of privilege, and were not meant to stand. He therefore asked Mr. Speaker whether it was competent to move an Amendment, the only result of which would be to re convert the Lords Amendment into a proposal which would be contrary to one of the most cherished privileges of the House of Commons.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether it was not in the recollection of Mr. Speaker that, on the Local Government (Ireland) Bill, 1898, he took this point in exactly similar circumstances, and was ruled against by the Chair.

*MR. SPEAKER: I remember the hon. and learned Member did take a point of order on that occasion, but I forget whether it was exactly the same one. On that occasion the words inserted were struck out by order of this House, and the Lords Amendment, without those words, was left in the Bill. There can be no question of a breach of privilege arising out of something which we do in this House. The question is whether there is a breach of privilege by the House of Lords. If the Lords send down a Bill to a Committee which contains no breach of privilege, and we do something to it to put it into a different condition, that cannot be a breach of the privileges of this House.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE desired to raise another point of order. Assuming that these words were omitted, a burden would be imposed upon the ratepayers. Mr. Speaker had ruled on Report that no burden could be imposed on the ratepayers except in Committee of the House. He submitted it was not competent, therefore, to impose a burden on the ratepayers by a vote of this House without a recommittal of the Bill in respect of the particular matter to be considered. He ventured to submit that, if the House of Commons could not do this on its own initiative, the mere fact that the House of Lords had committed a breach of privilege did not confer jurisdiction on the House of Commons to do a thing which it could not do of itself, and that there must be a recommittal of the Bill before they could consider this Amendment.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not so The rule is by the hon. Gentleman correctly stated as to the Report stage in this House. But, as regards the Lords Amendments, it is different. If the result of an Amendment in this House of a Lords Amendment is to create a charge which was not in the Bill when it went up to the Lords, that is perfectly legitimate. It has been done over and overagain.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds.'"—(*Sir James Fergusson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Lords' Amendment."

MR. TREVELYAN hoped that, if this Amendment were in order, the House would not adopt it, but would pass the proposal as it came down from the Peers, in its naked and original absurdity. As the Clause stood it meant nothing. It meant that an obligation was placed on the local education authority, and that the local education authority was told that it was not to have funds out of which to discharge that obligation. If they struck out these words they practically submitted themselves to be the victims of the farce that had been played upon them by the Bishops, and he thought it was better, as a protest in favour of their privileges, to keep this Clause whole, impossible and nonsensical. If they tamely submitted another place to insert Amendments of this kind they reduced their privileges in the matter of money questions to a nullity. If such a thing were allowed now, it would form a precedent upon which the other House could do anything. Suppose the House of Peers were to propose to reduce the income tax by a penny in the £. What was there to prevent their saying, "Provided the revenue be not thereby diminished?" What was there to prevent their doubling the Corn Tax, and saying it should throw no greater burden on the tax-payers? This had been done upon the instruction of the Bishops. They had used their ungracious opportunity in the other House, where there was no representation of any other religious section interested in the Bill, to take all they could get; but in this instance they had found, in obtaining something for the Church, they had committed a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons, and when they found their doubtful power slipping away, they had induced the temporal powers to insert the two lines now proposed to be left out, in order to gain their ends. He hoped the House would resist the Amendment.

*MR. WANKLYN (Bradford, Central) said he had only one objection to the Amendment, which was that it was a Bishops' Amendment. He had demonstrated on the Third Reading that this was not a Bishops' Bill, but a Bill based on the Memorandum of Mr. Foster, of 1869. In Bradford they had long since been educated to understand that every school which complies with the requirements of the Education Department, and has a Conscience Clause, is entitled to full aid from either the rates or the taxes, or from both.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he thought he might be allowed to bring the House back to the question before it, which did not require to be discussed at much further length. He had already described what the whole Amendment seemed to him to be—an absurdity. It asked the House to agree to a farce. There was a precedent to which his hon. and learned friend the Member for North Louth had referred, that of 1898, but the difference between that precedent and the present case—and it appeared to him to be an essential difference—was that in 1898 words were put in which took away the sting of a breach of privilege from a proposal which people concerned in the Bill desired to see carried into effect, the proposal of a desirable thing. It became apparent in the other House, however, that after all it was out of order, because it involved a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons, and this ingenious method was adopted to circumvent that difficulty. But that was a very different matter from the present proposal, which was known to be highly controversial, and which by this manœuvre had been brought into the House of Commons when otherwise there would have been no opportunity and no place to discuss it. What were they to do when these underlined words were brought before them? He thought the course for those who held his views to take was to leave the words in, to leave them, as his hon. friend had said, in their naked deformity, and in their original absurdity.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was surprised to hear the right hon. Gentleman give such advice to the House, because he had told them that these words were absurd and a farce, and yet recommended their retention. Without going to the other extreme, and adopting the modest phrase of his right hon. friend, who said that to cut out the words would perhaps improve the Amendment, he did not think the House, whatever they thought of the substantial Amendment, ought to embody in the Bill deliberately what they regarded as an absurdity or a farce. The Amendment was not the Government's; every one knew that the Government were beaten in the other House. While hon. Members might disagree altogether with the proposal made by the Bishop of Manchester, he did not think it was consistent with proper procedure that they should deliberately embody in a statute that which they declared publicly that they regarded as an absurdity and a farce.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said either the House did or did not cherish its rights and privileges, and the substance of this matter was that the Amendment before the House, as adopted by the House of Lords, was substantially a breach of the privileges of this House. He thought they were entitled to something more than the dialectical answer vouchsafed by the First Lord of the Treasury. It behoved them to be careful lest while indulging in this play of putting in words in the other House and deleting them in this House one of the most cherished principles of this House were lost. He regretted that the Prime Minister, who was also the Leader of this House, and ought, therefore, to be the chief protector of its privileges, should make himself a party to the farce they were now going through, and was assisting the other House to destroy the privileges of this House.

Colonel PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) said that, as a member of the House of Commons, he felt, as soon as he saw it on the Paper, that this was one of the most improper Amendments that had ever been put into a Bill. It ought either to be rejected as it stood or passed as it stood. If the latter course were adopted it would be an Amendment sent down from the Peers, and no reflection could be cast upon this House of Commons. That an English House of Peers should send down an Amendment, which, if passed, would be an absolute absurdity, was a course unworthy of any Chamber. As Englishmen they expected to see both private and public business done straightforwardly, and, although he had been a loyal supporter of the Government, he should certainly vote against the proposal, which he felt was practically an insult to the House of Commons. If they allowed the original Amendment to be passed by the means suggested, probably the House of Lords would act in this way again. He very much regretted that the Government should have departed from the Bill as it left the Commons, and he was surprised that no other protest had been raised. Had he not raised a protest he felt that he should have been disgraced as a Member of Parliament.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that, as in the minute that remained to the House before it suspended, he would point out exactly what took place in 1898. So far from that being a minor matter, as the Leader of the Opposition had suggested, there was a very strong direction to the House of Commons by the House of Lords. First of all there was the direction "that the words underlined were proposed to be omitted by the Commons." Those were the same words as the Amendment before the House, and then came the direction "that these words in italics were to be inserted by the Commons." The proposal was to transfer from the Grand Jury in Ireland the power to give compensation for malicious injuries in a certain very limited class of cases to the Judge, and the House of Lords extended that jurisdiction to every form of malicious injury, involving, so far as the Irish Members were concerned, a most monstrous and objectionable proposition. And yet that was carried without a word of objection from the whole Liberal Party. It was then pointed out that the practice adopted by the Lords had been adopted again and again.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES joined in the protest of the hon. Member for the Newton Division at the insult the House had received. The House should remember that in the ordinary course a Clause of this kind could not be inserted at any stage of the Bill without stopping the Bill and setting up a Committee of the whole House to consider the question. That was the proper, and, as he read the Standing Order, the only possible method. The House of Lords had carried an Amendment which was found to be a breach of the privileges of this House; they then put a false nose on it and sent it down; and they were now told that if they took off the false nose the breach of privilege was no longer there.

It being half-past Seven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put," but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

The Debate stood adjourned until the Evening Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Order read, for resuming adjourned Debate on Amendment [this day] to Lords, Amendment, in page 4, line 20, after "authority," insert "provided that all damage due to fair wear and tear in the use of any room in the school house for the purpose of a public elementary school shall be made good by the local education authority [but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds]."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the words 'but this obligation of the local education authority shall throw no additional charge on any public funds.'"—(*Sir James Fergusson*).

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Lords, Amendment."

(9.0) MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH said that since half-past seven he had had an opportunity of looking at the steps taken in the other place in order to introduce this Amendment, and he thought they had a right to complain of the manner in which it had been done. He found that the Duke of Norfolk stated that the Amendment was purely formal——

*MR. SPEAKER—Order, order! The hon. Member is referring to the debates in the other House. It is not in order thus to carry on the debate in this House.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH said he thought he was entitled to refer to the way in which those words had been placed upon the Paper, and to point out that, though they were treated as formal, they were actually introduced in order to put the Lords Amendment in order, and to escape the accusation of committing a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons. He believed the Lord Chancellor once said that the function of the House of Lords was to prevent the country being tricked, and, personally, he thought the function of the House of Commons was to prevent itself being tricked by the House of Lords. There could be no doubt that the words were introduced by a trick or dodge; that they were, in fact, a fraud upon the House of Commons, and that they were put in because without them it would be impossible to introduce a certain Amendment at that stage. The hon. Member for North Louth—speaking for himself, of course, for he was the only person in the Irish Party he was entitled to speak for —had referred to the precedent of 1898. But the hon. Member on that occasion said he did not attach much importance to his Amendment—which complained of an invasion of the rights of the House of Commons — except on principle. Now the present Amendment from the Lords consisted of two parts. Both of them, taken separately, made good sense, but, taken together, they made nonsense. The First Lord of the Treasury had himself referred to them as nonsense, but probably the nonsense which came from the House of Lords was very different from the ordinary kind of nonsense. He did not think they could accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for North-East Manchester. If the House of Lords chose to send them a nonsensical Amendment, all the worse for it. Their protest on that side of the House was against any alteration of the Bill. It must be perfectly clear to hon. Members on all sides that the Lords Amendment with the words deleted would constitute a serious charge on the rates, and, on that ground, he should vote against it.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) said he thought the attitude taken up by hon. Members opposite in regard to the Amendment was most unreasonable. They had before them a question of great importance, which had been introduced in another place. It referred to a matter already discussed in that House, to one on which there was a serious difference of opinion, and which he thought they were all anxious to have discussed and decided in a practical spirit at the present stage; yet the Opposition, knowing that there was this important subject to be debated, had begun by asking that certain words should be retained which they admitted had nothing whatever to do with the main question they had to discuss. They evidently wished to retain those words in order to cast a stigma on another place. Surely that was not approaching the question in a practical spirit. There was a most important question as to what repairs were to be paid for by the local authority, and what were to be imposed on the managers. That was a definite issue, and they could not possibly arrive at any sort of reasonable discussion on the question until the words between brackets and underlined had been removed. Hon. Members opposite, however, chose to waste the time of the House—[Cries of "Oh, oh!"]—Well, it was his opinion that they were wasting the time of the House—in a preliminary discussion upon an Amendment which they admitted was nonsense and meant nothing. But he would like to point out to the hon. Member who had just spoken that, in his humble opinion, the words as they stood meant something, and that by retaining them they were doing that which he was sure was very far from the intention of the Opposition. They would impose a very serious obligation on the private resources of members of the local authority, for while they declared that damage due to fair wear and tear should be paid for by the local authority they also provided that no additional charge should fall, in consequence, on public funds, and, therefore, if the local authority were to make good those damages without throwing any burden on the public funds they would have to do it out of their private pockets. The result would be to impose upon members of the local authority a large personal obligation which he felt sure it was very far from the desire or intention of hon. Members to impose. He appealed to the House not to delay the discussion on really substantial points in order that they might, by a sort of back door arrangement, inflict a stigma upon the other House. Let them give adequate and proper discussion to the really important point which arose upon this Amendment from the Lords. In order that they might do that the first necessary step was to leave out the words which, if they were not nonsense, bore a meaning which it was far from the intention of hon. Members opposite to import into the Bill.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorksire, N.R., Cleveland), on a point of order, submitted that if the hon. Member who had just spoken had given a correct reading of the effect of the words—if it were right that their retention would throw an obligation on the private resources of members of the education authority, then it involved a form of taxation upon those particular individuals, and he wished to know if that, in itself, did not constitute a breach of the privileges of the House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! I have already decided that this Amendment does not raise a question of privilege.

Mr. Griffith Boscawen

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said the hon. Member for North Louth had alluded to what had happened in the year 1898 in regard to the Irish Local Government Bill. Now, he took some part in the discussions on that Bill, and he spoke on several occasions on points which were afterwards debated in another place. He could not altogether agree with the whole statement of the hon. Member as to what actually occurred in regard to the Amendments sent down from the Lords. No doubt the hon. Member had stated quite correctly that he himself raised the very point which they were now discussing as to what was done in another place although the view he then took was adverse to the one he was now supporting. The hon. Member used exactly the same arguments on that occasion as had been raised on the present debate, but he had not said anything to show that he was right in declaring the conduct of the Government unjustifiable in 1898, and in now championing exactly similar conduct on the part of the present Government. If the hon. Member thought that the conduct of the Government, when there was no really substantial dispute between both sides of the House and both Houses, was wrong, were they not far more justified in holding it to be wrong when there was a really substantial difference of opinion between the two sides of the House and the two Houses? The hon. Member had also said not a single Liberal in 1898 uttered a word of protest, but that they allowed the matter to pass *sub silentio*. Now, in that he was inaccurate. If the hon. Member had turned over the page of *Hansard* from which he quoted he would have found a speech by himself——

Mr. T. M. HEALY: May I remind the noble Lord that the question had already been decided when he spoke. My point of order had already been ruled against me before the noble Lord spoke.

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE: Both speeches were in the same debate. They are only separated by two columns.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: No doubt they were in the same debate, but they were on entirely different questions.

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE: I beg the hon. Member's pardon, they were both on the same point. The hon. Member spoke first and I spoke last. It was the same debate, and on that point I challenge contradiction. Continuing, the noble Lord said he would like to ask the House to remember what happened on that occasion. No doubt the precedent, technically speaking, was on all fours up to a certain point. But Mr. Gladstone, who had used this form of procedure himself, said on that occasion that it was a procedure which ought only to be used with the most extreme care and caution, because it contained in itself a possibility of great abuse. Could anyone doubt what Mr. Gladstone was then thinking of was that a procedure which might be perfectly harmless in a case where there was substantial agreement, might, if it were not carefully watched, be used for other purposes which in 1898 were not present to the mind of the House. That was exactly what was occurring on the present occasion. They were having this machinery used in order to overcome a technical difficulty, but it was being used in reference to a subject which had excited a great amount of feeling, he was almost going to say ill-feeling in the country, and upon which there was a marked difference of opinion between the two sides of the House and the two Houses. He could not help thinking that in this case there had been a most unfortunate use of the precedent. There had been an abuse, too, of the privileges of that House, and by the course they were taking they were seriously endangering the liberties of the House.

Mr. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said the question of repairs was very small in comparison with the questions of the credit of the House and its power over the public purse which were involved in the Amendment, and there was no question which was more supreme in the history of the English Constitution than that, nor was there one which ought to be more jealously guarded. It was, in fact, a constitutional question. The question of repairs did not raise a vital principle; it was not a matter on which the future legislation of this country had to depend; it could easily be dealt with in a one-clause Bill before the Education Bill came into operation. But if the Lords Amendment were accepted the result would be that a charge would be levied on the people which would not have been levied if the Bill had remained in the form in which it left the House of Commons. It was said that the Amendment was only a technical means of getting over the difficulty. Was the power of the House over the purse a technicality? They ought to be jealous of the power of the House, and he appealed even to those in favour of the principle of the Amendment not to give the House of Lords the power of initiating taxation. Nothing could so discredit a grave and serious assembly as making its procedure farcical on a very important constitutional point.

*Mr. SOARES said he had hoped that every Member of the House would have appreciated the importance of the constitutional principle involved in this question. Primrose Leaguers, who posed as the peculiar guardians of constitutional liberty, ought to oppose the Amendment that had come from another place, but to Liberals the act of the Upper House appealed with especial force because it cut directly at the privilege which enabled a Liberal Government to get through important measures of domestic reform, like the budget of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, without interference from the other House. It would be admitted that there were not many Liberal bishops in the other House. There was only one, though he was a real good one. It seemed to him that those Bishops must have thought that in carrying this Amendment they were killing two birds with one stone. They thought they would be altering the constitution to the detriment of the Liberal Party, and also getting considerable pickings for themselves. The whole question was amply and thoroughly discussed in the Amendment of the hon. Member for Gloucestershire, which raised the point of structural repairs, and was defeated by a very considerable majority. The Bill had been an unconstitutional Bill from the very beginning. It involved taxation without representation, and it could not be denied for a moment that if this Amendment was accepted, an unconstitutional act would have been committed which would be bad for the State, bad for the Liberal Party, and bad for the Democracy which were interested in the fate of the Liberal Party. He hoped the Amendment would be defeated.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he wished to enter his protest against the method in which this question had been introduced. The House of Commons had deliberately refused to throw the burden of wear and tear upon the Councils. The friends of the voluntary schools had carried this Amendment against the Government in the House of Lords, and then, discovering that it was a breach of privilege, had descended to what he could not help describing as an unworthy trick. They introduced words which they knew to be foolish and nugatory, and an insult to the intelligence of both Houses. There was a touch of Jesuitism about the whole proceeding, and he was not surprised when he recollected the quarter from which it emanated. He did not think it was fair that the House of Commons should be asked to become accomplices in a trick of this character.

MR. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland) said the First Lord had asked the House to assent to the deletion of these words in order that they should not pass a nonsensical Amendment. He thought he could suggest a better method of dealing with the matter. The House should allow these words to stand, and then vote unanimously against the nonsensical Amendment sent down by the House of Lords. If the House of Commons did not make a protest against what he believed to be an outrage on Parliamentary procedure, it would reflect little credit on the majority of that House for zeal for Parliamentary privileges and the business like and decent conduct of their proceedings.

(9.38.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 200. (Division list No. 639.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Denny, Colonel
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (Somerset, E
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Kearley, Hudson E.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (Northants.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Mr. Soares.

Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Wm. M'Arthur.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gallowav, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S. Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Maconochie, A. W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James, F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick, Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Ridley, Hon M. W. (Stalybridge
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyneside
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thompson, Dr. E C (Monagh'n, N
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, H (Ashton-und-Lyne
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) said he wished to move an addition to the Amendment before the House, in order to provide that when the cost of maintaining the schools was transferred to the new authorities, the schools should first be placed by the managers in a sound, healthy, sanitary condition. The Amendment left the matter very much in doubt as to which body would have to put the schools into a good condition. He, therefore, wished to add—

"Provided also that the managers shall place the school-house in such state of good repair as may be satisfactory to the local authority, before any payment in respect to repairs is made by the authority."

*MR. SPEAKER: In order to make that relevant to this particular Amendment it must not relate to repairs generally.

MR. ERNEST GRAY said he was not wedded to his form of words, and he would move the Amendment in the form suggested by Mr. Speaker.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment:—

"After the last Amendment, to insert the words 'and provided also that the managers shall place the said school house in such state of good repair as may be satisfactory to the local education authority before any liability in respect of such damage is incurred by such authority.'"

Question put, "That those words be there inserted in the Lords Amendment."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the Amendment moved illustrated how very large a question was raised by these Amendments in respect to what was a very small matter. The whole proposal of the Lords Amendment was that there should be an allowance made in respect to any damage due to fair wear and tear by the use of the building as a public elementary school, and the fair wear and tear by the Amendment accepted by this House was to be assessed by the authority. The discussion that had arisen was out of all proportion to the question with which they were dealing. If the Lords proposal had been that the local authority should assume the liability of the managers with regard to all repairs of the premises, he could understand it, but under the circumstances he submitted that the Amendment showed a lack of all proportion, and therefore it should not be accepted by the House.

MR. BRYCE expressed great surprise that the hon. Gentleman should have stated that this was a small matter, seeing that it involved a difference of £350,000 a year to the ratepayers. Under those circumstances the Attorney General could not say that this raised a small question, for it was one of the largest questions which the House had had to deal with. As questions might arise as to how much wear and tear in the buildings was due to something which had taken place before the schools were taken over, it was quite right that provision should be made that they should be taken over in good condition. He rather expected, when the Attorney General rose, that he was going to accept this Amendment, because if they wanted to prevent these troublesome questions from arising, and if they were desirous of starting the local authority and the managers upon good relations they should put the local authority in possession of those buildings in a thorough state of repair, and calculate the damage by the wear and tear from the moment the local authority took the buildings over. He thought this Amendment deserved the support of the House.

MR. BOUSFIELD thought it was not necessary to provide against the state of things which the hon. Member opposite had in his mind, because all those who had had to do with agreements involving questions of wear and tear knew that these questions had to be determined with reference to the wear and tear of the buildings from the start. In the case of a dwelling it always meant the state of repair when the house was taken over. They never could be liable for these repairs, because they had only got to do with deterioration and damage caused by wear and tear in regard to the state of things when the schools were taken over. He agreed that the buildings should be put in the best possible state of repair, but the liability of the local authority to put them in a proper state of repair in the first instance did not necessarily arise now,

(9.58.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 112; Noes, 233. (Division List, No. 640.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P., Glouc. (Stroud
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst'ne
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Kearley, Hudson E.
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt Hn. William Edw. H.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert Willam
Philipps, John Wynford
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A (Glamorgan, Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Ernest Gray and Mr. Fuller.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick

NOES.

Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse,RtHnH(Somers't,E.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd.,Tottenham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jessel,Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, George
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,SirJoseph(Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long,RtHn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lundon, W.

Macartney,RtHn.W.G.Ellison
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Maconochie, A. W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Milvain, Thomas
Mooney, John J.
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray,Rt.HnAGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.John P.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(T'pp'rary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Pilkington,Lieut.-Col.Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliff, R. F.

Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Ridley, Hon M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley,S.Forde(Bethnal Green
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
Stanley,Edward Jas.(Somerset
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHonJ.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thompson,DrEC(Monagh'n,N
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunton
Welby,Sir Charles G.E.(Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White,Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley,H(Ashton-und-Lyne
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Worsley-Taylor,Henry Wilson
Wortley,Rt.Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON moved that this House do agree with the Lords Amendment as amended. He was interrupted in his remarks some hours ago by an hon. Member who had an Amendment to move in the early part of the debate. As he had had several opportunities of speaking on this subject in the course of the Committee Stage of this Bill, he should be very sorry at this hour of the night to trouble the House at any length, but the matter was of such importance that he thought it was incumbent upon him to make out a case to show why the House should be asked to agree with the Lords Amendment. Since this matter had been discussed in Parliament, a great deal of new light had been thrown upon it. Few of them were aware when the Bill was introduced how greatly the position of the voluntary schools would be damaged by the restrictions and burdens thrown upon them by this Bill. The Bishop of Manchester was reported to have moved the Amendment which was now before them, and he was sure that if the hon. Member for the Barnstaple Division had known the right rev. Prelate as he was privileged to do, he would have acknowledged him to be one of the most liberal and broad-minded men, who was devoted earnestly to his duty, and who had at heart the preservation of the schools. He had no doubt that the Bishop of Manchester placed his case before the other House in terms which deeply impressed the minds of the Peers, and induced a considerable majority of them to vote against the Government. It was quite true that voluntary schools were doing their share in advancing the education of this country, and they were not, as some Members opposite appeared to think, of an inferior character, but many of them were of a very efficient kind. In Manchester the amount per head earned by the children in examination was actually greater in voluntary schools than in board schools. It showed that the managers of those schools had worked them up to a high state of efficiency. Hitherto those schools had been provided for by the managers out of the funds placed at their disposal, and they had been kept up notwithstanding the competition of the board schools. Those schools had been kept up at a great sacrifice. [AN HON. MEMBER: Speak up!] He was not going to trouble the House with figures and quotations, but there were many cases where the voluntary subscriptions were not equal to the annual cost of repairs. No doubt in the future the repairs of these schools would be more than they had been in the past. Taking an average of the cost of repairs per child in many large towns such as Birmingham, Hull, Bradford, Liverpool, and other places, the cost per child would be about 2s. 6d. for repairs, whilst the voluntary subscriptions would not amount to so much. In that case the result would be that many of those schools would have to be given up. Of course he knew that many hon. Members opposite maintained that the schools attached to religious denominations [and giving definite religious education should be discontinued. But that was not the scheme of the Bill of 1870, and it was not the scheme of the present Bill. On the contrary, the country had given proofs of its attachment to the voluntary system, because after all these years the fact remained that a majority of the children were educated in them. It was too late to go back upon that, and it was not worthy of the opponents of the voluntary system that they should wish to ensure the more rapid extension of one system at the expense of another. He could not see the justice of so handicapping these schools that they would be starved out of existence or be kept up in a struggling manner. He could not see that because religious instruction was given in them they should be placed in an inferior position to schools where the religion was colourless or of a general character. He did not care what trouble or odium he incurred, even if for a moment he was unfaithful to his Party if it was necessary in the discharge of what he believed to be his duty. He did not believe this House would stand on its privileges in such a matter as this. He made an earnest appeal to the Prime Minister, who, he was sure, wished to do what was right. He believed this Amendment brought home to the right hon. Gentleman in a manner which had not before been done how grievous would be the effect of the Bill as it formerly stood with respect to the prospects of voluntary schools in populous and poor places. It was not a question of the country districts where there might be a wealthy squire, and where it would be easy to keep up the local school. For the sake of the poor people in populous places who desired that their children should receive this kind of education he asked the House to accept the Amendment. He moved that this House do agree with the Lords Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment as amended."—(*Sir James Fergusson.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have great hopes that the House will disagree with the Lords Amendment as amended. I hung back a little in the expectation and the hope that the Leader of the House might have at once risen to say what course the Government intend to take in this matter. For reasons, however, which I shall by and by state I do not see how they can take any but one course in regard to this Amendment consistently with what has happened in the past. There are two separate reasons why, in my opinion, the House should reject this Amendment—two separate reasons based on two separate orders of things. There is first of all the constitutional point affecting the dignity and rights of this House, and there are the questions which arise on the merits of the subject matter of the Amendment. We have heard a great deal to-night about this extraordinary proceeding to which the House of Commons has been subjected on this occasion, but something more, surely, must be said about it. I have already spoken of it as having been farcical and absurd and grotesque. But this is something more than that. It has a grotesque exterior appearance, but in its heart, *au fond*, it is a heavy blow dealt at the rights of this House, which are, after all, nothing more nor less than the rights of the general community of the taxpayers of this country. The reason we stand up for the rights of the House of Commons is not because of our pride in the body with which we ourselves are connected. It is not from any feeling of vanity or self-satisfaction that we may entertain as members of this House; it is because our privileges represent the privileges of the people of this country, and what we have seen on this occasion—I suppose the story must be recited again, although it is not a creditable one—is that an Amendment was introduced in the House of Lords and opposed by the Government of the day, and that it was carried against all the efforts of the Government of the day—an Amendment imposing a charge upon public funds. There is no question that the action of the Lords was an infringement of the privileges of this House. There is no one on either side of the House who will say that it was not an infringement of the privileges of the House. I can conceive it possible—in fact there have been many cases of it—that when this House was informed that a certain Amendment proposed in another place was an infringement of its privileges the House in its wisdom might waive its privileges and consider the Amendment. I do not say that might not be done in this case. That was a course which could have been pursued. It is a straightforward course, perfectly intelligible, and in accordance with precedent. Instead of that it has been thought right to smuggle this into the House and to induce the House by its own action to remove the absurd words which had been added to the Clause, and thus, by its own action, not only to make this House responsible for what has been done in another place, but to take away from the Amendment its character of a breach of privilege. That is the course which the right hon. Gentleman recommends the House to take now, Surely, on the ground alone of the way the House has been dealt with in this matter, I think it is only due to its dignity and to the maintenance of its rights that the House should decline to pass the Amendment, even if it were as good as in its nature it is bad. I will say no more on that question, for no multiplication of words will make the case any stronger.

Now I come to the merits of the Amendment itself. The right hon. Gentleman has gone over the whole story. He has discerned in the people of this country a desire for voluntary schools. We have nothing to do with that just now. We do not require to open the whole question on this occasion. What we have to do with is what has happened with regard to this particular Amendment. This particular proposal is that the public should undertake the cost of the wear and tear and the repair of these schools. There is no question about it. When the Bill was introduced we were told what was the foundation of the arrangement between the friends of the voluntary schools and the friends of what I would say are the democratic schools—the undenominational schools if you like to call them so. I speak especially of the Church of England schools, which have been maintained with great difficulty by friends who subscribed to support them, and who found that it was no longer possible to bear the burden put upon them. They agreed that the country should have the use of the schools, in which they claim some sort of property, on condition that the maintenance of the schools was to be put upon the public rates. On the ground of that arrangement they were to have a preponderating proportion of authority on the managing body that was established. In July last the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Tewkesbury Division moved an Amendment substantially to the same effect as this—namely, that it should be the structural repairs only for which the managers were to be responsible. That was opposed by the Government. The Attorney General said that good repair included all the repairs necessary to adapt the buildings for the purposes for which they were required, and that the Government would adhere to the words of the Bill, throwing the responsibility on the managers to do all that was necessary to keep the buildings in a suitable condition. He stated that you could not dissect the repairs and separate one kind of repair from another. The hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for the Stretford Division supported the Attorney General in this matter. When the House went to a division, only thirty-five Members supported the Amendment, while three hundred and thirty-seven, or nearly ten to one, voted against it. Have the Church and the Church schools become poorer since that time? Has it been discovered that there is some dreadful escape from which their money runs away and which requires to be filled up? Not at all. Since then they have received, in their share fees, in endowments, and in rents of school houses, large subsidies, the exact value of which it is very difficult to calculate, but which I have been told by experts may be put down at the moderate figure of at least £150,000 a year. [An Hon. Member: "It is more."] It may be more, but I put it at a low figure. I have taken some trouble to find out, and I believe that no expert puts it at less than that. I take the lowest. The Church therefore is so much the richer, and what would the Church gain if this Amendment were to become law? The right hon. Gentleman deprecated anything being said which would be derogatory to the character or disposition in this matter of the Bishop of Manchester. No one, I am sure, would wish to say a single word of disrespect of a man who is so universally regarded both by Members of his own communion and of others; but he is the author of this Amendment, and he has himself estimated the gain at £350,000 a year. Add to that amount £150,000, and you get £500,000 a year which is given to the Church schools in relief of the obligation they were taking on their own part when this Bill was introduced. I have been at some trouble to look up what has been paid on account of these schools, and I find from the report of the National Society of 1901 that the expenditure on voluntary school buildings since 1811 amounted to £14,500,000. But the capitalised value at 3 per cent. of £500,000 a year would come to £16,500,000. I think that is enough to show the absolute unfairness of those interested in the Amendment.

Now I come to the attitude of His Majesty's Government. As I said when I began, I expected the right hon. Gentleman to state what the view of the Government was with regard to the Amendment, but I have not much doubt as to what their course should be, because not only did they, through the Attorney General oppose an Amendment to this same effect when it was originally proposed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Tewkesbury Division, but in the House of Lords the Duke of Devonshire took the same course with regard to this Amendment. He deprecated it, and he enumerated all those subsidies which had been given. He said that they must not disturb the balance further, and that it would never do to entertain such a proposal. Accordingly the Government Whips in the other place were put on, but although it was a Government division they contrived to get themselves beaten.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: How contrived?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not mean when I say "contrived" to suggest any sinister plan. I mean that the Government so managed, or perhaps I should say mismanaged, their affairs that they were beaten. These are the circumstances in which we are now invited, notwithstanding the curious manner in which the matter is brought before us, and the way in which our rights and privileges have been dealt with, to make this great concession which we refused before at a time when the concessions relating to fees and endowments had not been given. I do not see how the Government can do anything in consistency with their previous declarations except to oppose the Motion of the right hon. Gentleman. All the arguments he used today were used on that occasion and were rejected by the House. There might be occasions when the House would go back on a previous decision. If the situation had been altered as against the Church schools that might have been done, but everything that has happened since then has been an alteration in favour of the Church schools. It is in these circumstances that we are asked to reverse the decision of July last. I think these are arguments enough to justify us by a large majority expressing our disagreement with this Amendment.

(10.43.) MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman seemed to pass some criticism, I will not say blame, upon me for not rising immediately to indicate the line the Government propose to take upon this Amendment. If I had thought the House required information on that point I should have risen to give it, but I have, in the clearest way and on more than one occasion during the debates we have had in the earlier stages of this Amendment, indicated to the House that so far as the Government are concerned we propose to leave this an open question. There have certainly been a great many statements made by the right hon. Gentleman from which I profoundly dissent. I dissent from his theory of privilege. He did not dwell upon it at great length, but he spoke with great emphasis, and almost indicated to this House that we were doing a great injury to ourselves by permitting ourselves to discuss perfectly, freely, and unhampered by any exterior influence, a question which we are greatly interested in. To say that we are bound in our own interest not to do what some Members of the House very much want to do, is, I think, a preposterous and untenable theory. With regard to the question as to the method that has been pursued, I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that all that has been done is in accordance with precedent, and perfectly constitutional. I have looked into this matter, and I find, no doubt, that there have been cases in which the House has dealt with far stronger cases of interference with the privileges we have got. They have been dealt with by a deliberate waiver of our privileges. My own belief is that it is not in the interest of this House to make it quite impossible for us to reconsider any question, whatever large lines of policy it may touch, whatever the interest it may affect, because the imposition of a rate or a tax is involved. To make it impossible for the House of Lords to make any alteration in a measure of this kind, and to preclude the House of Commons by that fact from ever dealing with the question again, is, in my opinion, not in the interest of the legislature as a whole, and certainly not in the interest of the House of Commons. I am quite satisfied that the course taken is not inconsistent with the practice which this House has followed. We had a discussion this afternoon, which I will not repeat, as to the precedent of 1898. That precedent was perfectly clear; that precedent points back to preceding precedents, and I do not see how you could have a clearer parallel to the course that is now being adopted than the precedent of 1898. It is perfectly true, and it appears to have offended some hon. Gentlemen very much, that there is in this, as in all these other cases, something in the nature of a method in getting round the strict privileges of the House of Commons. Of course, that is not denied. The right hon. Gentleman talked of it as a trick. There is no trick in the matter. It is a perfectly plain and open method, often followed in the past, by which the House is enabled to reconsider questions if it desires to do so. We are not compelled in any way to adopt the Amendment; we may kick the whole thing out with contempt; but this is a method by which the House regains a certain measure of liberty in regard to matters in which it is greatly interested; and I cannot understand how anyone acquainted with constitutional development and procedure can seriously object to the course we have adopted.

I pass from that to the concrete merits of the proposal. I do not think I will be asked to say much on these, but this much I must say. The hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs, and the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, talked as if there had been a bond, a bargain, a financial arrangement, if not put down in black and white, at all events, made in most specific terms, between those who framed the Bill and the ecclesiastical authorities to whom the Bill applies. That is not the fact. After all, nobody can speak with more authority than I can, and I say deliberately that the whole thing is a dream, a delusion, and is all based on imagination.

The Government brought forward the Bill in a certain shape. In a general way it was accepted and approved of by large sections of the community, including the managers of the voluntary schools; but that did not preclude Amendments being made in this or in the other House if these Amendments were in order. There was no contract; no kind of arrangement made with the ecclesiastical authorities. That is my first observation upon the Amendment. My second observation is this. For my own part, I did not realise in every respect the financial aspects of this Bill. I did not appreciate how much of the charge which the Bill would throw on the managers of the voluntary schools was at the present moment borne out of the public funds. It was an error, which at one time, I admit, I shared more or less, to suppose that this Bill relieves burdens which now exist in the case of managers of voluntary schools and imposes none. It does remove many obligations, but it certainly imposes some which do not exist at present, and the burdens it imposes are precisely in respect of repairs and minor improvements. I had occasion recently to look into these figures, and I believe a very large sum has been paid for these very purposes out of the public funds. Of course I do not deny for one moment that the balance of advantages, even if the Bill is not amended as the House of Lords proposed, is greatly in favour of the voluntary schools, as a whole. It is greatly in their favour; but it is not greatly in favour of a great many voluntary schools. There are, on the contrary, a not inconsiderable number of voluntary schools, and these schools are situated in the poorest parts of our large towns — some belonging to the English Communion, some of them to the Wesleyan Church, and a large number belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, who will not have their position improved, or, at all events, materially improved, by this Bill, if this Amendment by the Lords is not adopted. The House should face these facts before it comes to any final decision on this point.

There is one other observation I should like to make on this Amendment, and it is this, that whatever may be thought of the effect of this Amendment on voluntary schools — whether it be thought it gives them unfairly favourable terms or not, I have no doubt that it is an Amendment which, in part, will be in favour of education. I do not often have the advantage of agreement with the hon. Member for North Camberwell, but that hon. Gentleman will not dissent when I lay down that proposition. One of the things most required is an improvement in the structural condition of a large number of schools, especially in the towns; and I have not the least doubt that if this Amendment is passed, and if the education authorities are charged their share of current expenses and fair wear and tear, they will be emboldened to require the managers to make greater sacrifices than they otherwise would for these structural improvements which, let the House take my word for it, imposed great sacrifices on those interested in voluntary schools. After all, the question which the House has got to determine is not, in my judgment, how much ought the education authority to contribute to voluntary schools, but the converse question—what amount of sacrifice ought to be required from the voluntary schools, in order to justify their continued existence. Of course, the whole system is illogical and arbitrary. I have not often the pleasure of agreeing on these subjects with my noble friend below the Gangway, but I agree with him in this—that it is perfectly ludicrous and absurd to put a stigma on denominational education as such; but so long as our educational system is the mixed thing it is, so long as we are going to have the rate-provided school on the one hand, without denominational education, and to fill up the gap on the other hand, as we must fill it up, with denominational teaching, then I do not see how we are going to avoid some kind of money test, how we can avoid imposing some kind of monetary sacrifice on those who desire the advantages of a voluntary and denominational school system. The question is what should be the magnitude of that burden? I think, though it is very hard to say exactly, that this burden will become quite sufficient even if this Amendment is passed. It is extremely difficult to get any figures on the point. I have been hampered all through the long debates on this Bill by the impossibility of getting to the bottom of the financial situation; but I am perfectly convinced that with the burden left on the managers for the ordinary current expenses of their schools, to which has to be added the burden of bringing these schools up to the educational level with which the Educational Department will be satisfied, there will be a monetary test placed on those who desire denominational teaching which nobody would describe as inadequate. If that is so, it appears to me that, on the whole, the main objection to this Amendment falls to the ground. I entirely agree with those critics of the Bill and the present Amendment, that, if you give extravagantly good terms to the denominational managers, and ask of them nothing in return for all which this Bill gives them, you do them a very ill service. You would deliberately pass a measure which was destined to be transitory; and probably it would be in the highest degree inexpedient in the interests of denominational education itself that terms of that kind should be given. I do not think that this Bill will do that. I believe that the more the financial position is studied, the more it will be seen that there is an adequate sacrifice imposed upon the managers of the voluntary schools, a sacrifice sufficient to prevent the whole system from degenerating, and to prevent that curious compromise under which we, in England, live, as between the undenominational part of our primary school system and the denominational part, from becoming an absurdity and a farce. That being so, I think the House would be well advised not to dissent from the other House in the course they have adopted. I have attempted with all the impartiality in my power to place the issue before the House. I do not believe the general line of argument which I have adopted can be disputed as to the facts, and I can only leave it to the House to decide whether, under these circumstances, they can controvert the decision arrived at by the other House, or whether, on the other hand, they will agree with what I admit will confer another considerable benefit to the denominational schools of the country.

(11.3.) MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said the House would perfectly understand that they on that side of the House should not be called upon to decide between the two right hon. Gentlemen, although on the purely constitutional aspect of the question he himself would probably find himself more in agreement with the Leader of the Opposition than with the Leader of the House. But everybody knew that the position of the Irish party in the House was somewhat peculiar. They stood in a constant and perpetual minority, protesting against their inclusion in the House at all, and therefore in a question between the two Chambers they were in a state of mutual hostility. He might say in passing that whenever an act of oppression to any minority in this House was contemplated or was justified, it was to the Irish minority—from the days when the action of the Irish Party was held to justify the revolutionary change of the Rules of the Closure, till the last few days—it was always with the Irish Party that the abuse began. That led him to this observation; that he believed that this House would some day come to the same conclusion as the Irish Party had done, that in the effort to deprive Ireland of her own liberties, this House was depriving itself of its own liberties. He earnestly pleaded with the House to grant him some indulgence while he put the case, which was not the case of either of the English Parties in the House—the case of a permanent minority in this House—the case of the Irish Catholics, for with all due respect to the English Catholics in the House, the Catholic question was mainly that of the Irish Catholics. This might be illustrated by what took place in the constituency he had the honour to represent. In that constituency there were nine Catholic Schools. The population was, he should think, the poorest in any part of the country, consisting mainly of "dockers," who were not only insufficiently paid, but whose employment was precarious. And yet there they had this extraordinary state of things, that in the poorest part of the country, the school tax was highest and pressed most heavily on the poorest of the poor. The right hon. Gentleman had made a confession which was honourable in its candidness, but not to his mastery of his own Bill; he acknowledged that he did not quite realise the amount which the public authorities already gave to the assistance of the voluntary schools. That was a cardinal fact in this whole question. Take the Catholic schools in the Scotland Division of Liverpool. The arrangement at present was that the rent of these was paid out of an Imperial grant, but that would disappear under this Bill. He understood that some hon. Members thought it an abuse to pay the rent of Wesleyan and Catholic Schools, but the fact remained that it had been done. What was the case with the Anglican schools? In large numbers of these schools the repairs which the managers provided amounted to more than the voluntary subscriptions. That might be perfectly true in regard to certain of the poor districts, but the right hon. Gentleman had frankly stated that in these poor districts there was a large Irish population, and a large number of Irish Catholic schools; and the constituencies which had poor Anglican schools had, therefore, poor Catholic schools as well. But, while in the Anglican Church there were some poor districts, it represented, as a whole, the wealth of the country. And yet it was granted enormous concessions in regard to a share of the fees, a share of the endowments, and the rent of the teachers' houses. But every Member on that side of the House knew that not one of these concessions touched the Irish Catholic case. The Irish Catholics had practically no fees, no endowments, or teachers' houses for which they could claim rent. Therefore they had received no concessions under this Bill. On the contrary, much had been taken from them and little had been given.

MR. TULLY: Because there were no Irish Members here.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he would now go into the question of repairs. The figures were sometimes hard to get at, because, like most statistics used in political warfare, they were of a somewhat evanescent and changing character. At times they were put high and at other times low. In the London School Board district the repairs represented 5s. 8d. per child; in other districts he had seen it put down at 3s. and in others at 2s. But whether 5s. 8d., 3s. or 2s., it still formed a very appreciable addition to the burthen placed upon the Irish Catholics. If it was put at an average of 4s. it would be a burthen of £52,000. Even at the lowest figure suggested, it would mean a burthen of £26,000 per annum on the Catholic community. He appealed to hon. Gentlemen opposite, many of whom had Catholic schools in their constituencies, if they thought that it was acting in a generous or even a just spirit, to put this additional burthen on the poor Catholic population in Great Britain. In his own constituency, he was told that it would make the strain of supporting the Catholic schools more intolerable even than it was at present. Figures which had been given to him showed that the cost of repairs was a very appreciable amount of the total expenditure; and if these figures were correct, a sum of something like £15,000 a year would be added to the burthens of the Catholic schools in the single Catholic diocese of Liverpool, unless the Amendment were accepted. He thought the First Lord of the Treasury did not overstate the case when he said that it was more than doubtful whether, on the whole, Catholic schools in some parts of England would benefit or lose by the Bill unless this Amendment were accepted. He thought that, on the whole, without the Amendment, the loss would be greater than the gain. What would be the position of the Catholic schools under the Bill? In a large number of cases they would have to be changed if not revolutionised in their structure. What was the case now? Anyone who visited a Catholic school and a School Board school would be painfully and lamentably struck by the difference between one and the other. The School Board school was airy, had the latest hygienic appliances, the latest kind of school furniture, and the best class of study halls. That was the School Board school, which had the rates of the entire community to fall back upon. The Catholic school, on the other hand, was often very squalid and always unequal to the strain upon it. He felt that poor as that school was, the contrast of its poverty with the wealth and splendour of the School Board school was a high testimony to the people who preferred a school of their own creed to a better school which was not of their creed. Hon. Gentlemen maintained that the School Board school was open to Catholics as well as to Protestants, and that, in their interpretation, it was not a sectarian school. But the position

of Catholics was that even if religious education were excluded from a school altogether, or if it were reduced to a minimum by reading the Bible without comment, it still remained, from the Catholic point of view, a Protestant school as distinguished from a Catholic school. Therefore, the position of Irish Catholics in Liverpool and other great cities in this country was that they had to pay a double school rate, the rate for the School Board Protestant school and the rate for the Catholic school. Was it not a monstrous injustice that the poorest part of the population should have to pay that double tax? The Catholic schools were necessarily very poor, often ill-constructed, and always inadequate. At present they were only allowed to remain in such a condition because they had their freedom, and because, to all intents and purposes, they were purely voluntary schools. What would happen under the Act? Why, the public authority would be compelled, whether they liked it or not, to demand great changes in these schools. Suppose the public health officer in Liverpool informed the City Council that St. Joseph's Catholic school, in the Scotland Division, was unhealthy, that the health of the children was endangered through bad drainage, insufficient ventilation, low ceilings, and other structural defects. In that case, the City Council would have no option but to compel changes in the school to make it healthier. It was very different at present. When Mr. Acland was Vice President of the Council he himself was constantly going to him with complaints from Catholic priests in his constituency, who were alarmed at the changes he was asking them to make in the schools. Of course, political or personal remonstrances might have an effect now; but the moment the Bill passed into law, the local authority in Liverpool, Manchester, and other great cities would be compelled to impose on the Catholic community vast and, in some cases, revolutionary changes in the structure of their schools. Take the question of study halls alone. In many Catholic schools now the children were taught in one large room. According to the latest educational methods, that room would have to be divided up
into several small halls, which wou
make a considerable demand on t
resources of the school. What h
happened in London alone? He w
informed by Father Brown, who was
member of the London School Boar
that no less than 232 schools under t
Board had had their drains torn
within the last few years, and that,
the present moment, the drains of fort
three schools were being reorganis
That was happening in regard to scho
which were only thirty years old, whi
were built in this enormously rich ci
and which had behind them the ra
of all sections of the public. If th
were the case in regard to mode
schools in this wealthy city, he asked t
House to picture what would be the ca
of the schools built by the pence of t
Catholic poor in the poorest quarte
He spoke of the question as affecting t
poorest of the poor; and he wished
refer, in passing, to the unhappy soc
conditions of his own country, which h
driven the Irish people into the slu
of the great cities of England. That w
a point which was always present to
mind; it must always be present to t
mind of any Irishman dealing with t
question; and, he thought, it should a
be present to the mind of the Legislatu
Hon. Gentlemen opposite differed fr
him as to the political remedies that w
necessary for the relief of the impov
ishment of the Irish people and the Ir
race; but none of them would deny t
it was a tragic chapter in the history
the Irish race that two millions of t
race should have been driven to
worst and lowest forms of labour in
most unhealthy quarters of the cities
this country by the condition of th
own country.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Membe
now straying into questions which
not before the House.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that
hon. friend the Member for the City
Cork had defined his digression as deal
with the wear and tear of the populat
of Ireland. Perhaps that was really
momentous and as vital a question as
wear and tear of the voluntary scho
An appeal had been made on seve
occasions, during the debates on the B
to the Irish Members to consider

amount of sympathy and support given to certain political principles by the party of which his hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon Bororoughs was such a distinguished member. But he put it to his hon. friend that these appeals were irrelevant and even irrational, and that they showed an entire misconception of Irish character, Irish tradition, and Irish history. When, in the history of the Irish people, had they ever considered their material prosperity when their religious convictions were supposed to be involved. The race which allowed its whole land to be confiscated rather than give up its religious principles, was not going to give them up now for political considerations. On all these grounds, he strongly appealed to the House not to impose this additional burden on the poorest of the poor, but to display toleration and fair play towards their religious convictions and their religious schools.

(11.25.) MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said this was a question in which the ratepayer should be considered. He was not going to use the word "bargain," but what was created by the Bill was an arrangement between the managers and ratepayers. Under that arrangement the ratepayers were asked to provide funds and to give up a majority on the managing body of the schools in return for a certain valuable consideration. They had been led to describe this consideration as providing the school buildings free of charge. His first objection to the Amendment was that it modified, and to a great extent destroyed, the principle of that arrangement. At first it imposed an undefined liability on the local authority; it had now been converted into what he might call a fixed charge of substantial amount. It would be regarded as something equivalent to a rent paid for the school buildings. Was it desirable or fair still further to increase the burdens of the ratepayers without giving them any equivalent? It was also most unwise still further to narrow the basis on which the denominational system of schools was to rest in future. It might be, as the First Lord of the Treasury said, that the Amendment might be to the advantage of education. Certainly, to his mind, it would not be to the advantage or to the permanency of denominational teaching. If hardships were connected with any particular school, they ought to be left to diocesan funds rather than be thrown still further on the resources of the ratepayers. He ventured to urge on the House that the acceptance of the Amendment would not tend to make the denominational system more popular or more stable.

*SIR EDWARD STRACHEY said it was refreshing to have the right hon. Gentleman the member for East Somerset on the other side protesting against this new imposition on the local ratepayers, especially in country districts. The agricultural districts were, at the present moment, very heavily burdened. The Prime Minister said that the Amendment would not impose a new burden, that it existed at present, but not on the ratepayer. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to forget that the repairs and other school expenses, estimated by the Bishop of Manchester at £300,000 at present, would not really represent the total charge. They were all aware that when the public authority took over buildings and executed repairs, the expenses always increased in a most alarming manner. That would be what would happen if the Amendment were carried. The right hon. Gentleman, the Member for the Sleaford Division, expressed himself in *The Times* newspaper as being quite satisfied with the amount of the extra grant, though it did not go as far as his Amendment, limiting the rate to one fourth of the total cost of education, which the Government promised towards the relief of the local rates; but the effect of this burden, put upon them by the House of Lords, would be to take away the whole of the extra grant; although it was not very valuable, as it laid down the principle that the local rates should never get off with less than 3d. in the £. If the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Sleaford Division was satisfied that that was proper treatment, he himself was not satisfied; and he was glad that the Central Chamber of Agriculture, which he represented in this House, as its chairman, was also not satisfied with the grant, but much preferred the limitation of one fourth from the local rates.. The Central Chamber desired to have it laid down that, in no case, should the local rates ever have to bear more than a quarter of the total charge for education, both secondary and primary. Again, the County Councils' Association had unanimously declared that it was wrong and unfair that any further charge should be put upon the local rates. The education authority had the occupancy of the school buildings for about five hours a day for five days a week, so that practically for one day's occupancy they had to pay the entire cost of keeping the buildings in repair for the remaining six days a week. That was a very unfair bargain, and he hoped that many of the supporters of the Government, who were so fond of posing as the friends of the farmers, and who, at election times, claimed to be the party to keep down the rates, would on this occasion justify their claims by voting against this proposal.

MR. CHAPLIN (Lincolnshire, Sleaford), said he had two reasons for opposing the Amendment. According to the Leader of the Opposition, the Bishop of Manchester had stated that the effect of this Amendment would relieve the supporters of voluntary schools to the extent of £350,000.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON pointed out that what the Bishop said was that the present charge in respect of repairs amounted to that sum.

MR. CHAPLIN understood that to that extent the Bishop expressed the opinion that they were to be relieved of that charge. What did that mean? Two or three weeks ago the Leader of the House expressed the hope that he would be able to grant further relief to the agricultural districts, and within forty-eight hours the right hon. Gentleman made a concession which, in his view, was a liberal fulfilment of that conditional hope. But by the acceptance of this Amendment, the whole of that concession would be swept away, and if it was to form a precedent for the future, there was not a single decision of the House of Commons with regard to financial concerns that might not be overhauled by the House of Lords, and re-opened. In his judgment, the Amendment was technically a flagrant evasion of the privileges of the House of Commons, and he earnestly hoped the House would show by a large majority that it would have nothing whatever to do with it.

SIR GEORGE NEWNES (Swansea, Town) said he would not refer to the defence of the Amendment made by the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, as the Bill was introduced for the benefit, not of Roman Catholics, but of the Church of England, who had made a bargain in respect of the matter. ["No."] The bargain was that the Church, as the possessor of the largest number of denominational schools, should receive, not the monetary value of those schools, but the control of the religious education of the children therein. Surely, such a bargain had never before been made in bricks and mortar, nor had such property ever before been made to yield such exorbitant interest. But by this Amendment the Church sought to be allowed to run away from her part of the bargain. The Nonconformists, who numbered more than half the population of the country—["No"]—had been ignored; they had to keep to their part of the bargain, and, as a Nonconformist, he protested against the Church being permitted to run away from hers. This proposal would set up a rancour and bitterness, and create a sense of injustice, which would last as long as the Bill remained an Act of Parliament, and there would arise a state of religious strife and unrest which were not in the interests of the State or of education, and which would not be conducive to the welfare of the Church which had caused it.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) thought the Amendment a deplorable one. There had been a clear understanding as to this repairing Clause. The words were very simple, and capable of only one construction. Some of the main elements of the understanding were that the Church should maintain the school fabric, that the State should give the school teaching, and that the Church should have the majority of the managers. The supporters of the voluntary schools were willing to accept the Bill on these conditions, and were naturally glad to do so, as it would save the school from extermination under the "intolerable strain." The obligation to maintain the fabric had been not so repudiated as dodged. The Church was to maintain the outside of the fabric, but money was to be provided for her to do so. There had never been a more Machiavellian arrangement.

Mr. TALBOT (Oxford University): What does the hon. Member mean by money being provided?

Mr. MIDDLEMORE said he meant the endowments, certain rents, and, finally, having only half the necessary work to do. The Clause would more properly read—

> "The managers of a school should out of funds provided, not by them, but for them, keep, not the school buildings, but the outside of the school buildings, in good repair, and do as they like with any surplus funds they may have."

He frankly declared that this was a tortuous proceeding, and was paltering with the country in a double sense. He did not suggest that this evasion of the understanding was really premeditated. Unforeseen circumstances had doubtless put these emoluments in the way of the Church, but from his heart he wished the Church had refused them. By doing so it would have made for itself a great spiritual position in the country, but it had preferred the cash in hand to the spiritual position, and he believed that in making that choice, the Church had made a disastrous mistake. He had hoped that the Bishops, as the guardians of the loftiest interests of the Church, would have expurgated the Bill of these unworthy provisions; instead of doing so they had added a blot, not only to the Bill, but to their own cause. Not a single part of the understanding which existed on the Second Reading of the Bill remained. Money was provided, and only half the repairs were required. There was bound to be great agitation. The Dissenters would be a thoroughly contemptible set if there were no agitation, and it were shown that all their denunciations had been so much froth, and in his view, one of the most potent elements in that agitation would be the Clause now under discussion.

Dr. MACNAMARA said the original scheme was that repairs should be met by the managers out of funds provided by them, and that remained the scheme until the 2nd of October. It dawned, however, upon the members of the Church, that this would impose a very onerous burden on them. For his own part, he thought the burden ought to be onerous when one compared the benefits derived by the Church on the one hand and the community on the other from this Bill. How did the matter stand? In 12,000 out of 20,000 elementary schools the Church of England was to have its specific denominational teaching provided entirely at the cost of rates and taxes; it was to be able to insist on the head masters in those schools being members of the Established Church, and four-sixths of the managers of those schools were to be trustee managers and members of the Church. It also got the free use of the buildings and the furniture on Saturday and Sunday, and on four nights in the week for denominational purposes. These were considerable items, altogether apart from the spiritual aspect of the case, to put on one side of the balance-sheet. On the other side the public were to have a general control over the secular instruction through the medium of the Education Committee, and the right to veto the appointment or dismissal of teachers in respect of secular education. They were also to have two managers out of six, and the free use of the buildings for six or seven hours a day on five days a week and on three nights a week. Originally the managers were to keep up the fabric out of funds provided by them, but that obligation was afterwards whittled down by their having half the fees, half the endowments, and all the rent of the teachers' houses to meet that charge. Under this Amendment the remaining half of the fees and endowments and any additional rate assistance that might be required would also go to the upkeep of the fabric. Then there was the case of the Catholic schools. The hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool had talked about the schools being starved. That was a matter of the past; there was no question of their being starved in the future, as voluntary subscriptions would disappear for purposes of maintenance. The question was this—

Was it worth while to the Roman Catholic Church to find the £26,000, the estimated cost of repairs, to have the right to appoint the headmaster and they thousands of other teachers in its 1000 schools, and to give specific Catholic teaching entirely out of public funds to the 250,000 children in those schools? Surely, from the point of view of the Catholic faith, it was worth while so to do. Those who desired to preserve denominational teaching would do well to leave a small margin for their own obligations, in order that there might be some financial justification for the continuance of the denominational system. This Amendment was carried in the other House by the speech of the Bishop of Manchester, and he wished to say in the most deliberate way that Dr. Moorhouse was singularly ill-informed in the statements he made, for they were ludicrously beside the mark. Dr. Moorhouse said that the average cost of repairs in the board schools was 2s. 10d. a child, which was correct; but he said also that, applying that estimate to the Church of England schools, the sum would come out at £700,000 a year. But the number of children in average attendance in the Church schools was 1,885,802, and the total sum came out, therefore, only at £267,155 5s. 8d. He hoped Dr. Moorhouse's theology was better than his simple multiplication. But he contended that the sum would not amount to more than 2s. per child. In a letter in *The Times*, Dr. Waller had shown that in the Wesleyan Schools, which were not less well equipped than other denominational schools, the cost of repairs worked out at 1s. 3d. per scholar. He had always taken the generous estimate of 2s. per scholar. That would work out in the case of the Church of England schools to £200,000. To meet that there were half the fees, amounting to £60,000, half the endowments, amounting to another £60,000, and rent amounting to £40,000, or £160,000 in all, leaving a balance of £40,000 to be provided by the Church. Was it worth £40,000 to retain the right to give denominational teaching in 12,000 out of 60,000 schools at the cost of public funds, to maintain theological tests for 12,000 head teachers, and to have four-sixths of the managers? So far from the State having driven a hard bargain with the Church, the Church had driven a hard bargain with the public, and a bargain from which she would in the future regret having departed. The Church had driven a hard bargain, which it would live to regret. He agreed with the Duke of Devonshire that this little contribution was the Church's one claim to the continuation of all its privileges which it now secured under this Bill, and it was in the interest of the perpetuation of denominational religious teaching that the Church should be prepared to make it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES agreed with the Prime Minister that this proposal should be debated on its merits, but he did not in the least agree that, in order that that should be done, it was necessary for it to be presented in its present form. The House of Lords constantly made Amendments affecting financial provisions of measures sent from the House of Commons. It was true that they sometimes adopted the uncandid, inconvenient, and improper course followed in the present instance, but as a general rule they had not done so. Usually they adopted an Amendment, and the House of Commons, having recognised in that Amendment an evasion of their privileges, agreed, if the circumstances warranted, to waive their privileges. That was the proper method to adopt. If the present practice was to be followed, a similar policy might be adopted in regard to a Money Bill. There was no reason why the House of Lords should not put a penny on the income-tax, and then add a paragraph saying it was not to involve any public charge. He was with the Government on the present occasion, but as they were originally, not as they now were. The Prime Minister seemed to expect his majority to turn, turn, and turn again. He, however, could not change so frequently. Whether it was because he associated less with colleagues from Birmingham he did not know, but having started in one direction it took him longer to turn right about face. The right hon. Gentleman had said he would leave the House to express its unbiassed opinion in regard to this matter. But though he was not going to put on the Government Whips, he at once stated that he thought the House ought to accept the Amendment. What was the use of leaving off the Government Whips against an opinion like that? It used to be said that Napoleon was worth 20,000 men to any army he joined. How many votes was the First Lord of the Treasury worth? Certainly a great many. If the right hon. Gentleman intended to leave the House to express its unbiased opinion, he ought not to have exercised his great eloquence and fascination of manner in support of one particular side. Neutrality consisted in helping neither side, not in helping both sides, and still less in helping one side. Under the circumstances, he had no possible doubt as to the course he should take. He should vote against the Amendment, not only because it would put a considerable extra charge on the ratepayers and the public revenues, but also because he agreed with the earlier and better mind of the Government.

(12.8.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 197; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 641.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William

Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, John George

Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Capt. Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole

Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cullinan, J.

Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward

Esmonde, Sir Thomas

Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William

Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim

Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.

Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh'm
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)

Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Johnstone, Heywood
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael

Kemp, George
Kennaway, Rt Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry

Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockie, John
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham

Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.

Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Myers, William Henry

Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George

Purvis, Robert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H. C (North'mb. Tyneside
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Sullivan, Donal

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thompson, Dr E. C. (Monagh'n, N
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper

Valentia, Viscount

Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby, Lt-Col, A. C. E. (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-und-Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir James Fergusson and
Sir John Dorington.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bignold, Arthur
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John

Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, Sir Savile

Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings

Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)

Faber, George Denison (York)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill

Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd. Tottenham)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)

Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)

Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham

Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William

Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Markham, Arthur Basil
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)

Norman, Henry
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans

Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward

Quilter, Sir Cuthbert

Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings)
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest

Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd

Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Henry Hobhouse and
Sir Edward Strachey.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what he proposes to do with regard to the further course of the Bill. I do not ask this in consequence of the division which has just taken place, but in consequence of the late hour and of the stage at which we have arrived. We are now approaching the Amendment proposed in the celebrated Kenyon-Slaney Clause, and I think there is a general feeling that that is a question of such general importance to the public that it ought not to be discussed here at the small hours of the morning. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!"] I ask hon. Members opposite not to be too premature. On the other hand, there is no desire whatever to prolong unduly the discussion on that or any other Clause, and therefore I would ask the right hon. Gentleman to suspend further proceedings on this Bill now, or, at any rate, before we touch the Kenyon-Slaney Clause.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There was a hope entertained in some quarter, I think in many quarters, that we might dispose of the Lords Amendments in one night, but I admit that that hope has now become faint. In the general scheme of the session we had in view, and had always contemplated, the possibility, that the Lords Amendments would go over to part of the second night. If it will meet the general view of the House, I would suggest that we should finish drafting the Amendments down to the Kenyon-Slaney Clause, and leave the Kenyon-Slaney Clause over to Wednesday. I hope, however, that the House will consent to take tonight the final stage of the Uganda Railway Bill. The Kenyon-Slaney Clause and the other Amendments might, I think, be disposed of before the dinner hour. It might expedite business if I mention that it is my intention to advise the House to retain the Lords' Amendment in reference to teachers on education committees, and I propose to ask the House to disagree with that part. I do not believe there ought to be any difficulty in finishing our business before dinner tomorrow, but I must ask the House, in addition, to take the Lords Amendments to the Water Bill. If it had not been that certain hon. Members interested in the London Water Bill have left the House, I should have asked the House to take that measure tonight. That is the whole scheme of business before the prolongation that I need ask the House to undertake, and if we can agree that that business shall be carried out, I am quite willing to take the course which has been suggested.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not know that it would be discreet on my part to come to any positive agreement that the consideration of the Lords Amendments on this Bill should be finished by half-past seven tomorrow, but I may say that it is my full expectation that they can be finished by that time. If the right hon. Gentleman will

be content with the pious wish instead of a positive agreement, I am quite agreeable to the course suggested. I gather from the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman that the London Water Bill Amendments are not very serious. That being so, I hope the right hon. Gentleman will accept what I call a pious wish or expectation in lieu of a positive agreement.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not ask for an absolute pledge.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR asked if the First Lord of the Treasury would state what view the Government took of the Lords Amendment in regard to the Associations of Voluntary Schools.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not include that in the list of those Amendments with which we propose to disagree. I do not think I ought to give a pledge in regard to that question.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 5, line 7, agreed to.

Further consideration of Lords Amendments adjourned till Tomorrow.

UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at half after Twelve o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 17th December 1902.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1869.

Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for the year 1901.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 375. Gold Coast (Report for 1901.)

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the nine months ended 30th September, 1902, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), 34th and 35th Victoria, chap. 78; together with reports of the inspecting officers and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

PRESS TELEGRAMS.

Agreement between the United Kingdom and Sweden for the exchange of Press telegrams at reduced rates.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888.

I. Part I. Orders under Section 57 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board, of the following County and County Borough Councils:—

(1.) Bournemouth (County Borough). For uniting the parishes of Bournemouth, Pokesdown, Southbourne, and Winton to form the parish of Bournemouth.

(2.) Chester. For adding the rural parish of Brinnington to the parish of Bredbury, and the Bredbury and Romiley Urban District.

(3.) Glamorgan. For uniting the parishes of Cogon, Llandough, and Penarth, to form the parish of Penarth.

(4.) Kent. For altering the boundary between the urban district and parish of Beckenham, and the urban district and parish of Bromley.

(5.) Kent. For adding the parish of East Wickham to the parish of Bexley and the Bexley Urban District.

(6.) Leicester. For uniting the parishes of Loughborough and Knightthorpe to form the parish of Loughborough.

(7.) Middlesex. For altering the boundaries between the urban district and parish of Harrow-on-the-Hill and the urban district and parish of Wealdstone.

(8.) Norfolk. For transferring a portion of the parish of Felbrigg from the Erpingham Rural District to the parish of Cromer and the Cromer Urban District.

(9.) Norfolk. For abolishing the Guiltcross Rural District, and for transferring the parishes comprised therein to be Depwade, Thetford, and Wayland Rural Districts.

(10.) Southampton. For transferring a part of the parish of Hound to the parish of Hamble, in the South Stoneham Union.

(11.) Southampton. For adding a part of the parish and rural district of Warblington to the parish and urban district of Havant.

(12.) Southampton. For transferring an area from the Havant Urban District to the Havant Rural District, and for constituting the transferred area the parish of North Havant.

(13.) Southampton. For dividing the parish of Headley, in the Alton Union, into the parishes of Grayshott and Headley.

(14.) Surrey. For defining the boundary between the parishes of Chobham and Windlesham, in the Chertsey Union.

(15.) Worcester. For defining the boundary between the parish of Alvechurch, in the Bromsgrove Rural District, and the parish of Beoley, in the King's Norton and Northfield Urban District.

Part II. Order under Section 59 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board, of the following County Council:—

(1.) Dorset. For amending the County of Dorset (Wimborne Minster) Confirmation Order, 1892, the County of Dorset (Wimborne Minster) Confirmation Order, 1894, and the County of Dorset (Colehill and Holt) Confirmation Order, 1896.

II. Rule, under the Act, dated 28th November, 1902.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Order, dated 9th December, 1902, relative to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamship "Fremona."

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Return of all loans raised in India under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended on the 30th September, 1902, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, etc.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

QUEENSLAND AND THE REPATRIATION OF THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

Lord STANMORE: My Lords, in the unavoidable absence of my noble friend Lord Lamington, he has requested me to ask the Question which stands in his name, although, as it appears on the Paper, it is perhaps rather vague—"To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies a Question with reference to the reply sent to the Petition forwarded by the South Sea Islanders in Queensland." The noble Earl the Under Secretary of State will remember that last August, when Lord Lamington asked him a Question with regard to the repatriation of certain Kanakas who were going to be removed from Queensland, the noble Earl then promised that he would bring the case under the notice of the Commonwealth Government †; and I understand the purpose of my noble friend today was to ask whether that had been done, and what response has been received from the Commonwealth Government.

***The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES** (The Earl of Onslow): My Lords, I must take a little exception to the form that this notice assumes. It is "To ask . . . . a Question with reference to the reply sent to the Petition forwarded by the South Sea Islanders in Queensland." By the courtesy of the noble Lord in whose name the Question stood, I received an intimation from him of what the nature of the Question was to be, but it was something very different from what the noble Lord has just stated to your Lordships. It was to ask whether the interests which were involved in this measure were not Imperial rather than local; but I understand now that what he really wants to know is, what reply we have received from the Commonwealth Government. I hope that this may not be a precedent as to the manner in which Questions are to be put down on the Paper of your Lordships' House, because if so we shall presently get to something like this, "To ask the Under Secretary of State a Question with reference to the British Empire!" I will endeavour to answer the noble Lord as far as I can, but if I had known what was the exact nature of the Question I would have been better prepared.

I may point out that these Kanakas, who are to be repatriated to their own country are not British subjects at all unless, of course, they have been born in, and resident in Queensland. We have been in communication with the Government of the Commonwealth, and they assure us that they will take every possible precaution to see that these people, when the time comes (it has not yet come) for them to be repatriated, will be treated with every possible consideration, and that they will not be sent back to any place where they are not likely to thrive and be happy. It has been said that some of these islanders have lost all connection with their homes, and that they have now become practically Queenslanders, accustomed to a settled form of government, and accustomed to regular work. His Majesty's representatives in the New Hebrides and in other places have been instructed, and are taking the necessary steps, to provide for any of these Kanakas in whose case it may be dangerous or disagreeable that they should return to their native homes. The Government of the Commonwealth have given us the most complete assurance that, when the closing scenes of Kanaka employment in the plantations of Queensland arrive, they shall be accompanied by none of those cruelties and barbarities with which it was initiated. These islanders will obtain special and anxious attention, and it is hoped that whenever deportation is found to be necessary the Government will at the same time ensure the safety, and as far as possible the future welfare, of those towards whom Queensland has undertaken obligations which the Australian Commonwealth is bound to fulfil.

Lord STANMORE explained that in putting this Question he had been almost as much in the dark as the noble Earl himself as to the exact purport of Lord Lamington's Question.

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† *See* (4) *Debates*, cxii., 1081.

UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons and read 1^a.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. suspended.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

*EARL SPENCER: This is a fresh example of the difficulties your Lordships are placed in when Bills are brought up in this exceeding hurry from another place, and at the latest possible period of the session. We have not only not had this Bill in any way on our Votes before today, but we have not even seen the Bill; we have heard of it in another place; but it is certainly contrary to the dignity and efficiency of your Lordships' House if this practice continues. I have protested before on the same subject, and I protest again.

Of course, my Lords, we are going on with the Bill; there is no doubt of that. I do not propose to stand in its way at all; indeed, that would obviously be impossible, looking to the way in which these Benches are occupied at this moment; but I want to ask the noble Marquess in charge of the Bill one or two questions. This is a Bill for the working of a railway called the Uganda Railway, though I am told it is not in Uganda, and the railway is under the management and control of the Foreign Office. I am not going into the policy of the railroad; I believe both sides are equally, or nearly equally, responsible for it; but I want the noble Marquess to explain to the House how the Foreign Office conduct their business in regard to these matters. This railway has cost a very large sum indeed; I rather think now something like five and a half millions of money. Originally, when I first remember this being discussed, it was a very much smaller sum. The late Government, who were originally responsible to a great extent for this, may have had the first contract; of that I am not quite sure; but I would ask, has this work been open to contract, and, if so, what were the offers made? I think at first the estimate was for three millions, now, as I said, it has got up to five and a half millions. That seems to me a very strange way to conduct business, and there must have been something wrong with regard to the estimate. In this House on one occasion we had a debate, and I think the late Prime Minister spoke upon it, and he alluded to the great difficulties there were with regard to the labour part of the business, and he particularly mentioned one difficulty which we are not accustomed to in dealing with railways—that some of the men were sometimes cut off by lions. I should like to hear the explanation of the Foreign Office as to the enormous excess of expenditure on the estimate, and why this has arisen. I noticed in the papers this morning that a very distinguished traveller, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has gone up the railway, and has expressed himself very strongly, not only as to the richness of the country but as to the amount of game. He does not allude to lions—I hope he did not encounter any on his journey. I should like to be told by the noble Marquess whether there is any possibility of saying what chances there are of this railway eventually being a financial success; is there any real prospect that it will have any considerable amount of traffic of any sort, in order to give anything like a return for the outlay made upon it.

I think, my Lords, these are two important matters upon which we may ask for information. As to the administration by the Foreign Office of matters of this sort, if we are going to have more railways made under their jurisdiction, I hope they will be more successful than it would appear this has been.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I share the noble Earl's regret that this important Bill should have come before your Lordships at so late a stage of the session. But I am afraid it was inevitable; and as the Bill is a Money Bill, the details of which could not be discussed here, the delay perhaps signifies less than it would do in other circumstances.

*EARL SPENCER: If we could not alter it, we might have thrown it out.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I think what the noble Earl said in the course of his speech fell short of any desire to throw out the Bill; indeed, he and his friends would appear to regard the measure with a certain amount of sympathy. My Lords, it is perfectly true that the estimates which have been placed before the country as to the cost of this line have been largely exceeded; but though that may be to some extent due to preventable causes, it is also due to reasons which can be satisfactorily explained. In the first place, as the noble Earl is aware, the country traversed by the line is one the configuration of which presents very great difficulty. It rises from sea level to an altitude of over 7,000 feet; it then descends 1,700 or 1,800 feet into what is known as the Rift Valley; it then rises again to the top of a range over 8,000 feet in height, and then again descends to the level of the lake, which is 3,700 feet above the sea. It is obvious that a line constructed in a difficult and unexplored country like this is one the cost of which cannot be estimated beforehand with precision. We have had also to contend with the difficulty arising from the employment of large numbers of coolies imported from India; and then there has been a great rise in the price of coal, which disturbed many of our calculations. Expense has been involved, too, by the scarcity of water in certain sections of the line, so that it has been necessary to carry water by rail from the sources of supply to the points at which it was necessary for consumption. Then again, if there has been too little water at some points, here has been too much at others. The line has suffered great injury from floods, and of this supplementary sum of £600,000 a very considerable amount will be required to make good damage of this kind. But what really has rendered the finance of this enterprise so difficult of explanation is, I am afraid I must admit, the untrustworthiness of the original estimates. The sum first mentioned in 1896 was £3,000,000. But when that sum was named by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, he was careful to explain that it was not a final estimate, but was merely a sum named provisionally as that which would be required for the purpose of proceeding with the construction of the line. In 1900 a revised estimate was put forward, and that reached the sum of £4,950,000. But even at that time there were no surveys available of a kind to make it possible to put in thoroughly trustworthy and well-considered estimates. That, I admit, sounds unbusinesslike; but your Lordships can scarcely realise the difficulty and expense which attend the execution of an elaborate survey in remote and unexplored regions like those which the line traverses. If we had waited to begin until we were in possession of thoroughly well-worked out surveys of the whole, I am afraid that we should be waiting still, and instead of having a finished line we should have no line at all. We ought not to leave out of consideration the fact that the construction—and I may say, the immediate and rapid construction—of this line was very earnestly desired by the public in this country; and for that reason it was determined to proceed with it without waiting for those more elaborate surveys which in ordinary cases would have been desirable. Allowing for all this, I think there is some consolation to be found in the fact that we have a good line, for it has been inspected and approved by such high authorities as Colonel Gracey, Sir Francis O'Callaghan, and Sir Guilford Molesworth. Nor do I think that we have a dear line, as such lines go. The cost works out at £9,500 per mile, as compared with the £10,000 per mile of the Cape Railway, and the £11,000 per mile of the Natal Railway. Besides, we have to take into consideration the undoubted value of the line for administrative purposes. As to its financial results, while I should be sorry to indulge in any sanguine forecasts, I may say that those who are good judges—amongst others Sir Harry Johnston, who knows the country probably better than any living man—believe that before long the line will earn a considerable revenue. This is certain; that at the present moment it enables us to save a very considerable sum of money owing to the facilities it affords us for cheap transport. I may mention to your Lordships that the carriage of goods by caravan used to cost 7s. 6d. per ton per mile. The same goods carried by the new line of railway cost at the rate of 2½d. per ton per mile. I am told that on Government stores alone we have already saved by this cheapness of transport half-a-million of money, so that is, at all events, an asset to which we can point with some satisfaction.

The noble Earl asked me whether at any moment the question of giving this line to contractors had been taken into consideration. I am only aware of one offer having been received, from a well-known firm of contractors, but I believe the offer was one of which the conditions relating to such questions as gradients and curves were such as to render it impossible of acceptance.

Then the noble Earl dwelt upon objections to entrusting the management of such an enterprise as this to the Foreign Office. I think the noble Earl, like many other people, imagines that the whole control of the affairs of the line is in the hands of Foreign Office officials. But the fact is that the Board which is superintending the arrangements of the railway is a Board on which there are only two Foreign Office representatives. It includes a representative of the Treasury, and it includes Sir John Kirk, whose name is well known to the noble Earl, Colonel Gracey, a railway engineer of great Indian experience, and Sir Francis O'Callaghan, also a well-known and distinguished Indian railway engineer; and they have the assistance of such a high authority as Sir Alexander Rendel as consultative engineer. I venture to say that these gentlemen, with the assistance of the two Foreign Office representatives whom I have referred to, form a strong, business-like Board, and there is no reason for doubting their fitness for the task committed to them. I think I have answered the noble Earl's questions. I must express my regret that the estimates of cost have been so considerably exceeded, but I do venture to think that there are, to some extent at all events, extenuating circumstances to be urged.

*EARL SPENCER: I do not wish to reply to the noble Earl, but I devoutly hope that in the future the Foreign Office will not be put to the enormous difficulties they are now under by having to make a railroad under similar circumstances.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2ª accordingly; Committee negatived; Bill read 3ª, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with several of the Amendments agreed to; several others agreed to with Amendments, and with a consequent Amendment to the Bill; and one disagreed to, with reason for such disagreement.

The said Amendments and reason considered (on Motion), and agreed to.

On the Amendment to which the Commons disagreed—

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke OF DEVONSHIRE) explained that the Amendment in question was that made by their Lordships in sub-Section (4) of Clause 18, after "council," to insert "otherwise than under Part III. of this Act." The effect of this Amendment was that teachers in elementary schools would not be members of the education committee. The Commons disagreement replaced the teachers in elementary schools in the same position as teachers in other schools.

*EARL SPENCER: It is, of course, no use my taking objection to that now, but I confess that I regret the change that has been made. I know that there is considerable feeling in various parts of the country on this subject, and I think it is rather unfortunate that this change has been made.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I entirely agree with the Amendment made by your Lordships in this House; but I am afraid that at this stage it is too late to prolong the controversy.

On Question, "That their Lordships do not insist on the said Amendment,"

Agreed to.

LONDON WATER BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

House adjourned at Twelve o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 17th December, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the County of Cambridge (Eastern or Newmarket Division), in the room of Colonel Harry Leslie Blundell M'Calmont, C.B., deceased.—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

PETITIONS.

DESTITUTE ALIENS.

Petitions for legislation: from Stepney (two); Stepney Green (three); Mile End; Bethnal Green; Commercial Road, East (four); Victoria Park; Stoke Newington; Upper Clapton; Old Ford; and Poplar; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Ferry; and, Port on Craig; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Stoke St. Michael, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Ramsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the various County and County Borough Councils in England and Wales under Section 57 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1894 AND 1896.

Copy presented, of an Order, dated 9th December, 1902, relative to the landing in Great Britain of animals from the steamship "Fremona" [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CASUALTIES TO SHIPS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th March; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 404.]

NAVY (SHIPS' BOILERS).

Further Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th May; *Lord Charles Beresford*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 405.]

POST OFFICE (PRESS TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SWEDEN).

Copy presented, of Agreement between the United Kingdom and Sweden for the exchange of Press Telegrams at reduced rates [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 375 (Gold Coast, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in India, chargeable on the revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 30th September, 1902, etc. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 406.]

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the nine months ending 30th September, 1902, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers, Assistant Inspecting Officers, and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY BOROUGHS (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th November; *Mr. O'Doherty*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 407.]

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888 (RULES).

Copy of Rules under Section 89 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1888.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Return ordered, "showing under county boroughs and administrative counties, for each public elementary school receiving an income from school pence, the name and denomination of the school, and the religious denomination, if any, with which it is connected, and the amount received from school pence for the year ended the 31st day of August, 1902 (in continuation of the first, second, fourteenth, and fifteenth columns of Parliamentary Paper [C. 315], of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Royal Engineer Officers.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that officers in the Royal Engineers have to serve eleven years after receiving their first commission before they attain the rank of Captain, and that they must be thirty years of age before attaining that rank, and seeing that this term of service as a junior officer is longer than is required in other branches of the service, he will consider the advisability of shortening the period for the Royal Engineers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The whole question is at present receiving my attention.

Island of Lewis and Ross-shire—Epidemic Sickness.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state the number of public schools in the Island of Lewis which have been closed during the year on account of typhus or typhoid fever or other epidemics, and the period during which each school has remained closed.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The schools in the Island of Lewis closed since 1st January, 1902, on account of epidemic sickness, were as follows:—Stornoway, Aird Public School, March 7th to July 14th; Stornoway, Tolsta Public School, July 3rd—still closed; Stornoway, Knock Public School (Junior Section only), August 25th to September 15th; Stornoway, Bayble Public School (Junior Section only), August 23rd to September 8th; Barvas, Lionel Public School, April 9th to June 2nd; Barvas, Cross Public School, January 1st to February 18th; Barvas, Shawbost Public School, January 1st to March 24th; Barvas, Airidh-an-tuim Public School, January 1st to February 19th; Uig, Carloway Public School, January 1st to January 6th.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the report of the South Western District Committee for Ross and Cromarty, dated 26th July last, shows that there were several cases of typhoid fever and other infectious diseases in the district during the year, some of which proved fatal, will he state to what cause these outbreaks are attributable; were any public schools in the district closed on account of these outbreaks of disease; if so, how many, and for how long a period did each school remain closed.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) I am informed by the Local Government Board that the medical officer of the county is of opinion that the outbreak is traceable to the insanitary condition of a house in Loch Carron. The Secretary for Scotland is taking steps to secure fuller information. The schools closed during the year ended 31st July, 1902, in the district referred to were Kintail, Dornie Public School, about two months; Lochalsh, J. Earbusaig, about two months; Loch Carron, Strome, about two and a half weeks.

Fishermen's Dwellings at Stornoway.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate whether the whole of the twenty-nine quarter-acre sites for fishermen's dwellings near Stornoway have been applied for; have any sites yet been allotted; if so, how many.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) I am at present unable to furnish the hon. Member with any additional information to that contained in my Answer to his similar Question of 20th November,† and I regret that, as no notice of this Question has been given, I have been unable to obtain what further information, if any, may now exist.

Port Ness Harbour.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate, whether Mr. William Shield, who has been deputed to report on the condition of the harbour at Port Ness, Island of Lewis, has yet decided on a date on which he will visit the island.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) Mr. Shield has already visited Port Ness, and is engaged in preparing his report.

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† See (4) *Debates* cxv., 21.

Island of Lewis—Continuation Classes.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate, if he will state the names of any public schools in the Island of Lewis outside the burgh of Stornoway at which continuation classes are held.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) Up to the present date no proposals have been received from managers of schools for the recognition of classes under the Continuation Class Code during the current Session in any part of the Island of Lewis outside the burgh of Stornoway.

Irish County and Borough Sheriffs.

SIR JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.) To ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether, seeing that the high sheriff for a county in Ireland receives payment to cover to some extent his outlay in attending judges of assize, while high sheriffs of county boroughs do not receive any such payment, he will take steps to place the latter on the same footing in this respect.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) It has already been decided that the provision made by Parliament in respect of certain expenses of the high sheriffs of counties could not be extended to county boroughs. The law in regard to the shrievalty of counties and boroughs is widely different. In the former case the person appointed is obliged to accept office or, on refusal, to incur a heavy penalty. In the latter it is specifically provided by Section 7 of the Municipal Privileges (Ireland) Act, 1876, that the person appointed may decline to serve without incurring any penalty.

Greencastle (Donegal) Postal Arrangements.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been directed to a memorial from the inhabitants of Greencastle district, County Donegal, requesting the substitution of a mail car for the present service by foot postmen, and will he state how much extra such service would cost his Department; and whether, in view of the importance of this district as a summer seaside resort, he can comply with the prayer of the memorial.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The memorial referred to has not yet reached me, but I will make inquiry respecting the postal service in the Greencastle district, County Donegal, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

London General Post Office—Alleged Insanitary Condition.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Postmaster General if he has now received the Report of Home Office Inspectors on the alleged insanitary condition of the General Post Office, East, referred to in his reply to the sorters' memorial; and whether the nature of that Report can be made public.

(*Answered by Mr Austen Chamberlain.*) The Report has not been received, but I will make inquiry on the subject.

Travelling Post Office Officials.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask the Postmaster General if there is Treasury authority for paying the removal expenses of officers taking up duty on the Travelling Post Office with headquarters in the provinces; and whether it is the practice of the Department to pay such expenses.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I fear that I cannot, in an answer to a Question, give a full account of the regulations governing the payment of removal expenses; but, speaking generally, an allowance is made, subject to certain conditions, to an officer who is required to change his headquarters in the interests of the public service.

West Indian Cane Sugar—Government Experiments.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): To ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether the Colonial Office will present to Parliament a *précis* of the information collected and published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies relating to experiments with varieties of sugar cane, and to the chemical selection of sugar cane.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*) Pamphlets giving summaries of the Reports referred to by the hon. Member are published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, and can be purchased of Messrs. Dulau and Company, 37, Soho Square, for a few pence. It would therefore seem hardly worth while to publish them separately for Parliament. The question of whether these and similar publications cannot be made more widely known is under consideration.

Police Sales of Lost Dogs.

COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that dogs lost in London are seized by the police and sold by auction; and will he state how often these auctions are held, whether notice of them is sent to owners who have reported the loss of dogs to the police, and to what purpose the money realised by these sales is applied.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I have called for a report from the police on the facts alleged in the case on which the hon. and gallant Member informs me he has based this Question. I will communicate with him further in the matter.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a recent sale by public auction in London of stolen dogs under the order of the Chief Commissioner of Police; will he say whether this order has received his sanction; whether, seeing that the dogs were found in the possession of a man who was convicted for having stolen them, will he say to what purpose the money derived from this sale has been appropriated; and whether he will consider the advisability of directing that all stolen dogs, as well as lost or strayed, which fall into the hands of the Metropolitan Police and remain unclaimed, should be sent to the Dogs' Home at Battersea.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I beg to refer to my answer on a similar Question put by the hon. and gallant Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, and to promise a further communication.

Prison Officers' Pensions.

MR. JOHN HUTTON (Yorkshire, Richmond): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will undertake that the memorial of the officers of His Majesty's prisons, praying for the special consideration of their terms of service for pensions be referred to the Royal Commission on Civil Service Superannuation.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I will see that the case is brought to the notice of the Commission, but I cannot undertake to say to what extent they may be able to deal with it under their terms of reference.

Betting Laws.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he is aware of the increase in devices for evading the laws as to betting, and in inducements to enter into betting transactions by systems of credit accounts and by other contrivances now being scattered through the country; and whether he has considered, and proposes either to lay before Parliament legislation on the subject next Session, or to deal with the matter administratively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I am aware that the facilities for all kinds of betting are only too numerous. Certain phases of the evil were dealt with in the Report of the recent Select Committee of the House of Lords, and it is a matter which deserves and is receiving careful consideration. I have no special powers of administration with regard to it, and I am not in a position to make a statement as to the prospect of legislation.

Catterick (Yorkshire) Church Graveyard.

MR. JOHN HUTTON: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the church graveyard at Catterick, Yorkshire, has by order of the Local Government Board been closed for many months; and whether he will explain the delay in inspecting the proposed new burial ground.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) An Order in Council was made in March last closing the churchyard at Catterick from the 30th June, subject to certain specified exceptions. A site for a new burial ground had already been selected, but on the 19th of June I was informed by the Parish Council that the medical officer of health could not give a certificate as to its suitability. Application was subsequently made to me for approval of a new site and for sanction to a loan of £500 for the purpose of providing a new burial ground. The Parish Council had been made aware in February and March of the particulars which would be required to enable the case to be dealt with, but it was not until the middle of November that the complete information was furnished. A local inquiry was then directed, and the Parish Council were informed that it would be held as soon as the engagements of the inspectors would permit. The inquiry has now been fixed for the 30th of this month.

Statue of James II. in Whitehall.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): To ask the hon. Member for North Hunts, as representing the First Commissioner of Works when it is intended to re-erect the statue of King James the Second, which used to stand in Whitehall Gardens, and more recently on the south-east side of Whitehall; and whether, in selecting a site for it, regard will be had to the desirability of placing it in an open space of suitable size, and in which it will not be dwarfed by the neighbouring buildings.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) It is not possible to re-erect the statue at this moment, as the garden is under repair. In selecting a site careful regard will be paid to the surroundings.

Bushey Park—Concessions to Tramway Company.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask the hon. Member for North Hunts, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether he will state the exact nature of the details of the exchange of land to the London United Tramways Company in connection with Bushey Park; whether he will state what His Majesty's Commissioner of Works is giving to the London United Tramways Company for the portion of Garrick's Villa land he is acquiring from the Tramways Company; and whether the addition to Bushey Park, if any, will be open to the public.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) As the hon. Member was informed on the 7th November, there is no exchange of land to the London United Tramways Company. Nothing is to be given to the Company. The land to be added to the park will be thrown into that portion which is already set aside for the care of the deer.

Mr. Aldritt, Mayor of Tamworth—Removal from Office of Justice of the Peace.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): To ask Mr. Attorney General if he can state the reasons for removing Mr. Aldritt, Mayor of Tamworth, from the office of Justice of the Peace.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) I am informed that the circumstances are as follows: In an action for slander, Ashwood v. Aldritt, tried at the Birmingham Assizes on Tuesday, 5th August, 1902, arising out of words uttered in respect of an application to the Bench by the plaintiff for a licence, the judge left it to the jury to decide whether, in uttering the words complained of, Mr. Aldritt had been actuated by an honest desire to do his duty as a magistrate, or whether, influenced by some other motive, he had intended to injure the plaintiff. The jury found against Mr. Aldritt, a verdict with which the judge agreed.

Coronation Specimen Coins.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Coronation set of specimen coins were charged by the Mint at more than their face value; and, if so, what additional charge was made.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) With the approval of the Treasury, the prices charged to the public for specimen coins struck at the Mint, bearing His Majesty's effigy, are as follows: Face value £9 1s. 10d. Specimen coins: A, comprising five pound piece, two pound piece, sovereign, half sovereign, crown, half-crown, florin, shilling, sixpence, maundy fourpence, threepence, twopence, penny, without case, £10; with case, £10 6s. Face value, £2 1s. 10d.: B, comprising sovereign, half sovereign, crown, half-crown, florin, shilling, sixpence, maundy fourpence, threepence, twopence, penny, without case, £2 12s. 6d.; with case, £2 17s. 6d.

Rifle Clubs and Gun Licences.

Captain BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if a licence has to be taken out for a rifle by a member of a rifle club under the National Rifle Association, only used at the club practices.

(*Answered by Mr Hayes Fisher.*) Rifles owned by members of rifle clubs affiliated to the National Rifle Association, but used only on rifle ranges, will be exempted in future from gun licence duty, and no licence will be required in respect of them.

Post Office Assistant Clerk's Pension.

Mr. SKEWES-COX (Surrey, Kingston): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that an assistant clerk of thirty-two years service has recently been retired from the General Post Office at the age of sixty-one years on a pension of less than 15s. a week; and will he state the reasons for a pension of this amount being granted.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) If the hon. Member will send me particulars of the case to which he refers, I shall be happy to investigate it.

New Questions Rule—Cost of Printing.

Mr. CHANNING: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury what has been the approximate cost of the printing of Answers to Questions since the new Rule came into force.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) Approximately, £2,300.

Indian Auditor's Salary and Allowances.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state the sums paid to the auditor of the Indian home accounts for salary and allowances respectively during the period that he has been in the India Audit Office; and what was the maximum salary to be paid to him under the conditions on which he entered.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The present auditor's scale of salary on first appointment to the Audit Office in 1860 was £100, rising by £10 annually to £250; in 1863 his maximum salary was raised to £450. In December, 1868, he was made junior inspector, with the prospect of rising to £500, which was subsequently increased to £600, to which a personal allowance of £100 was added in 1882. In October, 1892, he was appointed assistant to the auditor, the scale of salary being £700, rising by £25 annually to £800, retaining his personal allowance. In January, 1895, he was appointed auditor, salary £1,000. The salary of the post was increased to £1,200 in February, 1900.

Donegal and Londonderry County Boundaries.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the public boards interested in the proposed change of union boundaries in the counties of Donegal and Londonderry have informed the Local Government Board as to their views on the boundary question, and that the County Donegal Boards have reiterated their opinion that an inquiry should be held by the Local Government Board into the proposed change, and whether, seeing that the Local Government Board some time ago informed the public boards in question that such an inquiry should be held, he will state when the inquiry will take place.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Local Government Board awaits an expression of opinion from the Londonderry County Council before taking further action in this matter.

Marine Works on the Donegal Coast.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state what works it is proposed to carry out on the Donegal coast under the provisions of the Marine Works Act; and whether he will state his decision as to the requests made to him for the construction of piers at Port Noo, Falchorrib, and Kincasslagh, and the improvement of the pier and harbour of Portnablagh.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No, Sir. I hope to settle these questions during the month of January, when I shall be able to confer with private and public bodies who may be interested locally.

Dunquin (Kerry) Pier.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when will the construction of the pier at Dunquin, county Kerry, be begun.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Congested Districts Board's steamer is lying off the coast awaiting an opportunity to land the material for building this pier.

Land Judge's Court—Fifth Return of Estates.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant a fifth Return of Estates in the Land Judge's Court in Ireland ordered to be sold, in continuation of the Order of the House dated 2nd August, 1900, and will he direct that the name of the county or counties in which these estates are situate be inserted in the Return.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) A fifth Return is in preparation, and when settled will be laid upon the Table. These Returns are in strict conformity with the particulars required to be furnished by a statutory rule, dated 23rd February, 1897, in relation to proceedings under the fortieth Section of the Land Act of 1896.

Irish National Schools—Teachers' Responsibility for Cleanliness of School Premises.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the circular issued in August last to teachers of National schools in Ireland, stating that the inspectors' reports as to the neatness and cleanliness of the school houses and premises would be taken into account in questions of the grant and teachers' salaries, implies that the teachers have a responsibility in seeing that their schools are kept neat and clean, even should that involve the outlay of money on their part.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) All teachers are enjoined to promote cleanliness and neatness in respect to the school premises as well as to the pupils. If any expense be incurred in complying with this requirement it must be defrayed locally, though not necessarily by the teachers.

Lismore Workhouse Master.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the appointment of Mr. George M'Donald as Master of Lismore Workhouse has yet been sanctioned by the Local Government Board; what are the usual tests as to qualification imposed on persons elected to the position of workhouse master before the appointment is sanctioned; and whether the Local Government Board has been requested by the Lismore Board of Guardians to sanction Mr. M'Donald's appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The appointment has not yet been sanctioned. Candidates for the position are required to possess an elementary knowledge of arithmetic and English composition. Mr. M'Donald has recently been examined in these subjects, and the matter is under the Board's consideration. The reply to the concluding inquiry is in the affirmative.

Garrison and Field Artillery Officers—Length of Service for Promotion.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the supersession of officers of the Garrison Artillery by officers of the Field Artillery who had joined the same regiment after them, and who were junior to them when on the same list prior to June, 1899, he will take steps, either by brevet or by some other means, to remedy this state of affairs.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Will the hon. Member kindly refer to my reply to a Question put by my hon. friend the Member for Cambridge on the 18th November on this subject?†

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxiv., 1233.

Buncrana (Donegal) Military Barracks.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the War Office have as yet finally selected the site for the proposed new Military Barracks at Buncrana, county Donegal; and, if so, when will the work of construction commence.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This case is still presenting difficulties, and, in consequence, the land required for the barracks has not yet been acquired.

Army Contracts for South Africa—Preference for Supplies from British Imperial Sources.

Sir THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will consider the advisability, when making contracts for supplies to the Army in South Africa, of making it a condition that all such supplies shall as far as possible be obtained from Imperial British sources.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The matter has been already considered, and the following clause inserted in all local contracts commencing on 1st January, 1903, viz.:—All supplies delivered under this contract shall be obtained from British Imperial sources, unless special circumstances necessitate otherwise, when the matter must be reported fully, and special sanction obtained for delivery of articles from any outside source.

South Africa—Railway Rates for Canteen Supplies.

Sir THOMAS DEWAR: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the rates charged on the South African Government Railways for the conveyance of goods for the supply of the military canteens are considerably higher than those charged for the conveyance of stores required for the concentration camps; and will he consider the expediency of taking such steps as may be necessary to secure for military canteens the same rates as are accorded to stores for concentration camps; is he aware that the railway rates now charged for canteen stores are higher than those charged during the war; will he say to what extent the rates have been increased, on what ground the change was made, and on what date the new rates came into force.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The transit of canteen stores has been charged for by the Railway Companies since the 1st August last at ordinary public rates, which are from two to three times as great as the rates for military stores. Stores for concentration camps are charged for at the latter rates. Canteen stores were charged for at these rates during the war. The rates on the Cape and Natal Railways are fixed by the Governments of those Colonies. The matter is still the subject of correspondence with South Africa.

Army Annual Preliminary and General Returns.

Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for War what course he proposes to pursue as to the publication of the Army Annual Preliminary Return and the Army Annual General Return for each year ending 31st December, 1899, 1900, and 1901 respectively; and whether there is any precedent for the non-publication of the strength and distribution of the Army as given in these periodical Returns for the information of Parliament.

Sir JOHN COLOMB: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Army Annual Preliminary Returns and the Army Annual General Return for the year ending 31st December, 1902, may be expected to be presented to Parliament before going into Committee of Supply on Army Estimates for 1903–1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The composition of the Army Annual General Return is at present being carefully considered, in view of the efforts now being made to cut down Returns generally. Further, it is very improbable that accurate figures can ever be given for the period covered by the war. There is no precedent for such non-publication, but no war of such magnitude or of so prolonged a character has occurred since the Return was originated.

I may add that it is doubtful whether the Preliminary Return will be published in future.

Army Reserve Statistics.

Mr. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): To ask the Secretary of State for War what percentage of the men annually enlisted pass annually into the Reserve on the completion of their term of service with the colours.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The percentage of the men annually enlisted who pass into the Reserve is as follows: Three years men, about 47 per cent.; seven years men, about 40 per cent.

New Army Corps—Composition of Staffs.

Mr. BECKETT: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the staffs of the six Army Corps are now complete.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The reply is in the negative. The Headquarters Staffs of the 4th, 5th, and 6th Army Corps will not be required until 1st April.

Recent Explosion at Waltham Abbey.

Colonel LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can give particulars of the recent explosion at Waltham Abbey whereby three lives were lost; and what compensation is due to the relatives of the deceased.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) A violent explosion occurred at 12.3 p.m., 15th December, in an incorporating machine which, so far as can be at present ascertained, was being charged with cordite modified paste. The man charging it was blown to pieces, and two other men were killed by falling *débris*, one just outside the incorporating bay and another in the engine room. The damage done is extensive, and immediate action is being taken to make this good. The question of compensation will be considered. It is impossible to state at present what will be granted.

South Africa—Clark's Siding Remount Farms.

Colonel WELBY (Taunton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet received replies to his inquiries regarding the leasing of the Remount Farms at Clark's Siding, South Africa, and the private uses to which they were put; if not, when he expects to be able to communicate the result of those inquiries.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No Report has as yet been received. I will press for a reply.

South Africa—Field Force Canteen Contracts.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the name of the authorities in South Africa by whom contracts for the supply of excisable liquors to the Field Force Canteen at Pretoria have been made since the termination of the war.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The general officer commanding is responsible for such contracts.

Education Bill—Parliamentary Grants due before "Appointed Day."

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, Will the remainder of the school grants held by the managers of voluntary schools, have to be paid over to the local authority when the Education Bill comes into operation, or whether the annual grant has been forwarded to the managers as the result of past work.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) No part of any Parliamentary grant held by the managers of a voluntary school will have to be paid over by them to the local education authority when the Bill comes into operation. Parliamentary grants payable in respect of a period before the appointed day will be paid, and must be applied, in accordance with Schedule 2 (12) of the Bill.

Education—Inspector's Examinations of Individual Scholars.

Mr. NICHOLSON To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he will consider the desirability of so amending the instructions to His Majesty's inspectors as to admit of an examination of individual scholars being held by one of His Majesty's inspectors, where such an examination is desired as a test of efficiency by the School Board or the authority responsible for the teaching of that school, and the inspector is willing to undertake such examination.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The instructions relating to examination will be carefully considered before the next issue of the revised instructions.

Mediterranean Squadron — Ranking of Inspectors of Machinery.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he is aware that the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean station has laid it down that, for purposes of official entertainments, engineer officers of the rank of inspectors of machinery shall rank with commanders in command; and whether, in view of the fact that, according to the King's and Admiralty instructions, inspectors of machinery have the relative rank of captain, he will take steps to ensure that these officers shall not be for social purposes degraded below their proper rank.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The Admiralty are still without information on this subject. The Commander-in-Chief. Mediterranean, was communicated with about a fortnight ago, but his reply has not yet been received, though it is now daily expected.

Government Dockyard Employees—Imperial Service Medal.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to make the grant of medals to employees in His Majesty's Dockyards retrospective, in any degree, as regards those who have already retired on pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The regulations under which the Imperial service medal will be awarded provided that only those retiring from the service of the Crown subsequently to the 8th August last shall be eligible for the award of the medal. These regulations apply not only to dockyard employees, but to all other servants of the Crown.

Devonport Dockyard—Discharges of Workmen.

MR. LOCKIE (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that about eighty men have been discharged from the Works Department of Devonport Dockyard, with one week's notice; and whether, in view of the decision of the Admiralty regarding the employees in His Majesty's Dockyard at Woolwich, that the discharges should not take place till April, instructions will be sent to the authorities at Devonport postponing the discharges till April, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The facts are as stated in the hon. Member's Question. The men referred to were taken on for particular works, which have been executed by direct employment of labour; the works having been completed, it is necessary to discharge the men. Such discharges are incidental to the completion of all large works, whether executed by direct labour or by contract, and it is impracticable to avoid them in the manner suggested by the hon. Member.

Central Telegraph Office—Extra Duties.

MAJOR EVANS-GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): To ask the Postmaster General whether the Staff of the Central Telegraph Office have recently had a duty imposed upon them that extends from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. one week, and from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. the week following, and whether forty-two hours night duty is equivalent to forty-eight hours day duty; and whether, in view of Section 2 of the references to hours of work in the Tweedmouth Committee Report, and the assurances given to this House that the decisions of the Tweedmouth Committee would be adopted, he intends to continue the duty.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) This matter is already receiving attention, and my decision upon it shall be given as soon as possible.

Poor Law Schools—Women Inspectors.

MR. ASHTON (Bedfordshire, Luton): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that a number of children, particularly girls, chargeable to various unions in the country are placed out by guardians in certified poor law schools over which the guardians have no control, and that many unions have passed resolutions in favour of the appointment of women (Local Government Board) inspectors for the inspection of such children; and will he state whether he can see his way to appoint women inspectors for this purpose.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am aware of the matters mentioned in the first part of the Question. Certified poor law schools are visited by the General Inspectors of the Local Government Board. In the metropolitan district these schools are also visited by a lady inspector, but I have not found it practicable to extend this arrangement to the rest of the country.

Venezuela—The "Ban Righ."

MR. CHANNING: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any complaints or claims have been made to His Majesty's Government by the Government of Venezuela as to the failure of British authorities to prevent the sailing of the "Ban Righ"; and as to the losses caused by that steamer; if so, whether he has any official information showing the damage and loss caused by the operations of the "Ban Righ"; and whether the Venezuela Government have asked for arbitration as to such complaints and claims.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) Complaints have on several occasions been addressed to His Majesty's Minister at Caracas by the Venezuelan Government on the subject of the "Ban Righ" in respect of the particulars mentioned by the hon. Gentleman, and they have reserved their right to claim at a future time compensation for damages alleged to have been caused by the vessel. With regard to the two last Questions, the answer is in the negative.

British Cemetery at Corfu.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government is aware that a contract has been signed by the Greek authorities at Corfu, selling to a Franco-Belgian Company the British cemetery at Corfu, to be used as the site for building a gambling casino; and what steps have been taken to maintain the treaty stipulations confirming to His Majesty's Government the property of the British cemeteries in the Ionian Islands and to preserve the cemetery in question from desecration.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) This matter is receiving careful attention. The site of the British cemetery has not been transferred, but it is understood that a company desire to acquire it for the purpose of building baths and a casino Gambling houses are forbidden by Greek law. A special Report on the whole question is expected within the next few days, on receipt of which the points raised in the latter part of the Question will be duly considered. The greatest care will be taken to prevent any action offensive to the very natural feelings which have been aroused by the use it has been proposed to make of these cemeteries.

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Venezuela—Anglo-German Naval Action—Present Position.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will make to this House a statement similar to that apparently made yesterday in another place by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the question of Venezuela; and whether he has any further information of any kind on the subject to communicate to the House.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am not aware that my noble friend made anything that can be called a statement in the other House. He did answer a Question put to him as to the course this country would adopt in case the seizure of Venezuelan gunboats proved insufficient to bring the present controversy to an end. I am perfectly ready to answer that Question in this House, although I think that by implication it is already answered in the Blue-book which is in the hands of hon. Members;

and I rather think that I myself have given an answer by anticipation in the observations I made in debate two nights ago. At all events, the answer is perfectly explicit. Supposing that the seizure of the Venezuelan gunboats has not the result we all hope it will have, it will be necessary to proceed to a blockade. The blockade, of course, will be carried on by us and by Germany; but it will be carried on by the fleets of the two Powers as regards different portions of the coast, and though the fleets will be acting with the same object, they will not be acting as one force. We have no intention, and have never had any intention, of landing troops in Venezuela or of occupying territory, even though that occupation might only be of a temporary character. We do not think that would be desirable, either on military or on any other grounds.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): When will the notification of the blockade be published, so that the Powers may be aware under what circumstances and in what manner the blockade will be enforced? I would also ask whether the right hon. Gentleman will place the House and the country in possession of the communications that have passed between His Majesty's Government and the United States of America, both antecedent to the intervention and subsequently, so that we may know really how we stand in reference to the Government of the United States?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): May I also ask whether the Government, before deciding to institute this blockade, have considered and finally disposed of and removed the objections to such a blockade stated by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in his communication to the Admiralty on October 22nd?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The whole matter, of course, has been very carefully considered, and all the conditions governing such a blockade have been drawn up and will be published in due time for the information of neutrals; but, without going into details, the Government are most anxious that these operations, the necessity for which we of course deeply regret, shall be as little inconvenience to neutral Powers as they can possibly be made. Papers are being prepared as rapidly as they can be, and they will, no doubt, include the papers the right hon. Gentleman opposite desires—at least, I assume so.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I assume that no difference will be made between the vessels of one neutral Power and those of another?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly, no difference will be made.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Have the United States consented to the blockade?

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I might put that question in a more specific way. Statements having appeared in Germany, which are believed in Germany, to the effect that the United States have declined to submit to the position of neutrals on the ground that there is no such thing as a pacific blockade, and that there are here no belligerents; have such representations been received here from the United States?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I understand the right hon. Gentleman's Question, he refers to a controversy as to whether there can or cannot be such a thing in international law as a pacific blockade.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: That is, pacific according to the American view communicated to Germany yesterday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is very likely that the United States Government will think there can be no such thing as a pacific blockade, and I personally take the same view. Evidently a blockade does involve a state of war.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): May I ask whether there is any prospect of recovering the cost of these operations from the individuals on whose behalf they are undertaken?

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman state the total amount of the British claims against Venezuela, and the approximate total cost of the present expedition ?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It is perfectly impossible to answer Questions like that without notice; but I may repeat the observation which I made the other night, that these operations are not undertaken in order to recover the debts of bondholders. They have been undertaken most reluctantly, and after long and patient delay, because the Venezuelans assaulted British citizens and seized British ships.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Has the right hon. Gentleman yet learned what he did not seem to be quite sure of the other night—namely, whether the Germans, who are acting in this matter, have any grievance against the Venezuelans, except such grievances as arise out of their financial claims ?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, I believe they have.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: May I ask whether the United States have assented to a blockade, which, as suggested by His Majesty's Government, would exclude United States vessels ?

*Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): May I ask whether any further efforts have been made, or any suggestions or proposals received, from either His Majesty's Government, the United States Government, or the Government of Venezuela, as to settling the whole matter in dispute by arbitration ?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I answered that Question most fully in the speech I made two days ago. The Question of the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Louth, does not arise when you are in a state of war with a third party.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: A state of war! Has war been declared ?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Does the hon. and learned gentleman suppose that without a state of war you can take the ships of another Power and blockade its ports ?

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: Will the right hon. gentleman say whether the offer of arbitration made on behalf of Venezuela will be accepted by His Majesty's Government ?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, I can make no statement.

*Mr. CREMER: What I desire to ascertain from the Prime Minister is whether any further efforts have been made in the direction of arbitration since the right hon. Gentleman's speech of two days ago.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. Nothing has occurred relevant to that particular inquiry since I last spoke on the subject.

Glen of Imaal Artillery Camp—Forage Contract.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether foreign hay is being supplied to the artillery camp in the Glen of Imaal, county Wicklow; if so, can he state the names of the contractors and the period for which the contract has been made; whether tenders for the contract were invited by advertisement in the Wicklow or other Irish papers; and whether the forage contractors resident in the district of Imaal were given any opportunity of tendering for the supply of hay to the camp.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The camp is not at present occupied, and therefore no hay is being supplied to it. In readiness for the last training the General Officer Commanding Curragh obtained tenders and made contracts for the supplies required for a period of about four months. The forage contractor was Mr. P. Fitzgerald. I am not aware whether the requirements were advertised.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: Can the right hon. Gentleman say where Mr. Fitzgerald resides ?

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): I cannot, but I should judge from his name that he is an Irishman.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: But he does not live in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: No.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): Why was not this contract advertised in the Dublin papers? Is it not usual to do so?

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, but in this case it was not thought necessary.

MR. NANNETTI: Will the right hon. Gentleman see that they are so advertised in the future?

MR. WYNDHAM: I see no reason to change the existing system, which has been followed with advantage for many years.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Was the lowest tender accepted?

MR. WYNDHAM: That is the usual practice. If the lowest tender were passed over it would be because it was thought the tenderer would not be able to carry it out.

MR. NANNETTI: Will the right hon. gentleman take care that the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons is enforced in these cases, so that there shall be no exploiting of cheap labour?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): Was the advertisement sent to the *Freeman's Journal*?

MR. NANNETTI: Send it to Tully's paper.

1st Inniskilling Fusiliers—Return Home.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state whether there is any early prospect of further troops coming back from Africa; if so, whether the 1st Battalion of Inniskilling Fusiliers, sent for a further period of service in Cape Colony, are to be kept at Middleburg; and whether, seeing that this regiment has been fighting in Natal and afterwards in the Transvaal, and has had 12 officers and 192 non-commissioned officers and men killed in action, and that the 2nd Battalion of the regiment is now at Mafeking, and that this is the only regiment since the peace which has both battalions in Africa, will he state how long will the 1st Battalion of the Inniskillings be kept at Middleburgh; and will he explain why have they been sent to this station, and on what principle has an Irish regiment been selected for so much duty, seeing that the Guards and other English regiments were allowed home soon after the peace.

MR. BRODRICK: Will the hon. and learned Member kindly refer to my reply to a Question put on this subject by the hon. Member for Midlothian on the 27th ultimo? †

MR. T. M. HEALY: The explanation was so unsatisfactory that I thought it necessary to repeat the Question. I think the Irish Members are entitled to some explanation of the exceptional treatment meted out to this Irish regiment.

MR. BRODRICK: All regiments are treated exactly on the same footing. There is not the smallest desire to treat this regiment unfairly.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Then why is it that both battalions of this regiment have been sent to the most unpleasant places in South Africa, after hundreds of the men have been killed and wounded in the war, while the English Guards were allowed to come home?

MR. BRODRICK: A good many officers would prefer to have both battalions in South Africa.

MR. T. M. HEALY: But this regiment has been sent to the most unhealthy and unpleasant places in South Africa. It is their reward for valour.

Boer War Prisoners—Case of De Haas.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the Postmaster General, as representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he will explain why a naturalised burgher of the late South African Republic, named De Haas, who was a stationmaster on the Pretoria railway, and who was never on commando during the late war, but who was sent as a prisoner to St. Helena, is now being deported to Holland; and can he say why he is not being returned to South Africa with the other prisoners of war who are being repatriated.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxv., 616.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E., for Mr. J. Chamberlain): The prisoner of war who appears to be referred to, is reported as being of foreign nationality, not a naturalised burgher. He is consequently not entitled under the terms of surrender to be returned to South Africa.

Prize Firing in the Navy.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that in "Notes of Naval Progress," July, 1902, published at the Government printing office in Washington, it is stated that the Return of the annual prize firing with heavy guns of the Channel Fleet ships has been published, and the results of the competition are given; whether, as this information is in the hands of a foreign Government, the Admiralty will place the said Return, and the Returns of the annual prize firing with heavy guns for 1901 in the other squadrons, in the hands of members of the House of Commons; and whether they will also grant Returns of the annual prize firing for 1901 of the various squadrons with light quick-firing guns.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): Yes, Sir. I am aware that a report of the nature referred to, having reference to the firing of one portion of the Fleet, viz., the Channel Fleet, was published as stated. The same Return has also appeared in the Press in this country. The particulars, both with regard to the Channel and other Squadrons, are not for sale as ordinary Papers, but are regarded by the Admiralty as being for the information of the officers of the Navy, and it is not considered desirable to publish them in the form of a Return.

MR. YERBURGH: May I ask why these particular figures should be accessible to foreign nations, and not to the House of Commons?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The figures relate to a particular squadron. It is unfortunate that they should be accessible to foreign nations. Similar figures in the case of foreign countries are in no case accessible to us. The proper course would seem to be to prevent them becoming accessible to foreign countries in future.

MR. YERBURGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that in 1901, at the annual prize firing of the various squadrons, forty-six ships did not fire at all, among them being two Admirals' ships, the "Revenge" and the "Royal Arthur"; and will he state whether it is obligatory upon ships to take part in the prize firing, and, if so, will he explain why these ships failed to do so.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The reply to the first two inquiries is in the affirmative. The reasons which prevent any particular ship from taking part in the annual prize firing are always reported to the Admiralty, and are carefully considered. In the cases referred to by my hon. friend the reasons given were satisfactory, the ships concerned being principally those employed on special duties in connection with the South African War and the voyage of the "Ophir," or newly commissioned ships which only proceeded to their station during the year.

MR. YERBURGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that of the 127 ships that took part in the annual prize firing of 1901, while one ship made over 70 per cent. of hits and two ships made over 65 per cent. of hits, seventy-five ships missed the target eighty-five times out of every 100 rounds, and five ships never hit the target at all, and that one Admiral's ship, the "Warspite," was last of its squadron in heavy gun firing; and will he state how many of the Admirals' ships were among the class that missed the target twice out of every three rounds, and what were the names of these ships; and can he say whether the Admiralty propose to take any steps to deal with this inefficiency in gunnery.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The attention of the Board was drawn to the results of prize firing in the ordinary course, but these results do not agree with the figures given in the Question. Prize firing in the Navy is, and must essentially be, a competition between guns of the same nature in individual ships, and not between different ships carrying varying armaments and firing under dissimilar conditions of wind, weather, light, and sea. A comparison of the latter nature would inevitably be misleading. For these reasons a comparison between the results obtained on the "Warspite" and those obtained on other ships in the Pacific Squadron and elsewhere would not be conclusive. On the receipt of the return of prize firing on each ship, the Admiralty take such immediate action as may be considered necessary after duly considering the circumstances of the individual case, and in forming their opinion they have the advantage of full knowledge of all the circumstances. It is, therefore, not considered necessary to call public attention to special ships, as, by so doing, incorrect opinions might be formed, which, owing to the absence of detailed information, might be misleading.

*MR. LUCAS (Portsmouth) asked if it was not possible to publish a Return of prize firing in the British foreign Navies, on the same basis as the Return always moved for by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, E.R., Shipley): Cannot the hon. Gentleman give us some explanation as to the steps being taken to improve the firing in the Navy?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: In answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, I have to say that his proposal cannot be acceded to, as we have no access to the prize firing Returns of foreign nations, and they are not published in the newspapers. In answer to the hon. Member for Shipley, I have to say that it would take up too much time to give him the particulars he wishes in the form of an answer to a Question.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what Powers, signatories of the Brussels Sugar Conventions, have intimated to His Majesty's Government that, in their view, the Convention obliges Great Britain to levy countervailing duties on sugar and sugared products coming from such of her self-governing Colonies as grant bounties; and on what dates respectively were such intimations received; what Powers, non-signatories of the Convention, but having treaties with this country containing the Most-Favoured-Nation Clause, have intimated that they will hold as an infringement of their rights under that Clause the imposition of differential duties on their sugar and sugared products; and on what dates respectively were such intimations received; has the correspondence with the signatory Powers resulted in a complete common agreement as to the effect of the Convention; and will he lay all that correspondence upon the Table of the House.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): We have received no direct communication from any Government except that of Austria-Hungary calling in question our refusal to admit any obligation to enforce a penal Clause against any British self-governing Colony. A verbal communication was made by the Austria-Hungarian Embassy on the 29th November last, and further informal communications have since taken place. Statements on the same subject were made on the 9th of June last in the German Reichstag, and on the 2nd of December in the Netherland First Chamber. The answer in the second paragraph of the Question is that Russia is the only country which has made such an intimation. Communications from her were received on the 8th of July last and the 24th of September last. The answer to the third paragraph is that the correspondence has not resulted in a complete agreement. The correspondence is not complete, and it would not be desirable to lay further Papers at present.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, will His Majesty's Government undertake not to ratify the Brussels Sugar Convention until the disagreements as to its construction between Great Britain and others of the signatory powers have been removed, and until all correspondence with Foreign States relative to the Convention since its signature has been laid before Parliament, and this House has been afforded an opportunity of expressing an opinion thereon.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give the substance of his answer to the Question as to correspondence which I have on the Paper.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid not. It is a Question which is not marked to be answered orally. In reply to the hon. Member for King's Lynn, I have to say that we see no reason to delay the ratification beyond the date fixed. My hon. friend has probably present in his mind that there is really no question between Great Britain and the other signatory Powers except as regards the liability of this country to penalise bounty-fed sugar from the self-governing Colonies. The objection is more theoretical than practical, as no appreciable quantity of sugar can be received from the Colonies during the five years of the term of the convention.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: But would it not be desirable to have a complete agreement between the Powers before the ratification? The right hon. Gentleman admits that there is a disagreement.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. We have never made any secret of our distinct and unalterable view with regard to the penalising of sugar from our Colonies; and we shall ratify the Convention on that distinct understanding. It rests with us, and only with us to penalise.

Mr. BRYCE: Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say that he feels confident that no self-governing Colony will give a bounty on sugar within the next five years?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, I did not say that; but I said that I did not believe that there could be any amount of export of sugar from any self-governing Colony which is not a negligible quantity, in view of the great bulk of sugar imported. We have distinctly laid it down that this treaty does not require us to penalise sugar from our self-governing Colonies. We should regret if the Colonies put on bounties, but we are not bound to penalise them if they should do so.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: Do any of the Powers agree with, or do any of them differ from, that view?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think I have implied in my previous answer that there is not as yet an entire agreement between the Powers concerned in this Convention upon that point—an academic point, but, so far as we are concerned, a point which has an important bearing upon the relations between this country and our self-governing Colonies. It rests entirely with us to interpret the treaty as regards the self-governing Colonies, and we mean to interpret it in the sense I have described.

Uganda Railway.—Commissions to Crown Agents.

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will give the amount that the managers of the Uganda Railway have paid in commission to the Colonial Crown Agents, and what was the nature of the service rendered for the commission or salary that was paid them.

Lord CRANBORNE: The total amount which the Uganda Railway Committee have up to date paid as commission to the Crown Agents for the Colonies is £22,778, representing about half per cent. on the total expenditure on the line. The services for which this payment has been made are set out in detail on page 8 of Africa No. 4 (1900).

Tuberculosis Commission.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state what progress has been made by the Commission on Tuberculosis in Cattle: whether he can state about what date their Report may be expected; and whether, in view of Dr. Koch's reiterated opinion and the failure of Dr. Gournault's experiment, instructions will be given to have greater care exercised in the confiscation of meat alleged to have been tuberculized.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S): Since my reply to a similar Question yesterday I have been informed that the Royal Commission have made considerable progress with their inquiry. Very extensive experiments are, however, being carried out, and arrangements have been made under which the Commission will be able to occupy the farms lent by Sir James Blyth for this purpose for two years from now. The Commission expect to be in a position to report within that time. As regards the last part of the Question, I do not think that pending the Report I can add anything to the observations contained in the circular letters issued by the Local Government Board in March, 1899.

The Unemployed—Government Relief.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether in order to prevent disadvantages resulting to certain localities by detached and isolated provision of relief works for the deserving unemployed, he will cause to be issued, as soon as practicable and before distress deepens, the 1893 Circular to all the Local Authorities in the United Kingdom, so that uniform action can be taken by responsible bodies to mitigate distress arising from want of work; and whether he will also recommend to Town Councils, boards of guardians, and other authorities the advisability of unifying and cooperating with all charitable and other agencies so as to prevent over-lapping and waste.

The following Question also appeared on the Paper—

MR. KEIR HARDIE: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will make a grant in aid from the public funds to aid local authorities in meeting the distress now prevailing, due to lack of employment.

MR. WALTER LONG: Although I am sorry to say that there has recently been an unusual increase in pauperism in the Metropolis, yet so far as my information goes the number of unemployed in the country generally does not appear to have increased of late, and the break in the cold weather is evidently favourable to work. The employment by Local Authorities of men on works to which they are not accustomed and which are hastily undertaken is open to considerable objection and might even lead to an increase in the difficulties which it is desired to meet. I hardly think the time has come for urging the Local Authorities to proceed in this direction. At the same time, I have every sympathy with the object that the hon. Member has in view in making the suggestion, and I am giving the matter my unremitting personal attention. I shall continue to do so during the Recess, and if it appears to me that it would be desirable that Circulars of the kind suggested should be issued, I shall certainly issue them, or take any other action which seems to me to be expedient. I may add, with reference to the Question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of which the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil has given notice, that I could not undertake to apply to my right hon. friend to make a grant of the kind referred to in that Question.

MR. KEIR HARDIE subsequently put his question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have answered it. Obviously it is one that should have been addressed to me. I am not prepared to ask my right hon. friend to make any such grant.

Electrical Communication with Lighthouses.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what progress has been made during the year in providing electrical communications between lighthouses and the shore; how far these communications, when provided, are available for private messages; if the Departmental Committee appointed in 1900 to consider the above matters has issued its Report; and whether the signal stations at the Fastnet and Tuskar have been completed.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): During the present year electrical communication has been established between two lighthouses and the shore. It has not yet been found possible to arrange for making these communications available for private messages. Further progress will be made with the work during the coming financial year. I understand that the Departmental Committee does not propose to issue any general Report; it makes each recommendation the subject of a special Report. Signal stations at the Fastnet and Tuskar have not yet been completed. The whole matter has been somewhat delayed by the consideration of questions surrounding the development of wireless telegraphy—a subject which is engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

Argentine Cattle Trade Restrictions.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, considering the scarcity and present price of meat, and the outlook for the consuming public, he can now hold out any prospect of being able in the near future to remove the restrictions on the importation of Argentine cattle.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR (for Mr. HANBURY): I understand that the Argentine Government have now proposed and carried an Act which embodies conditions I thought essential for the security of our own herds and flocks to ask that Government to impose within its own territory. No official information on the subject has, however, yet reached me. On being duly informed of the condition in question having been complied with, it would become my duty to reconsider the existing prohibition against the landing of Argentine fat cattle for immediate slaughter at the port of arrival.

Head Post Offices.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether he will state the numbers respectively of head post offices in Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales; and of these respectively how many are under the annual value of £100, how many of £100 and not exceeding £200, of £200 and not exceeding £300, and how many of £300 and over.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN If the hon. Member will put this Question down unstarred, I will furnish a printed answer showing the particulars desired. They are too long for oral reply.

Sunday Work in the Post Office—Richmond Postman's Grievance.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Thomas Shrimpton, auxiliary postman of Richmond, Surrey, who has been dismissed the service for declining to work on Sundays, or in default thereof to find a substitute without cost to the Department; and whether, seeing that this man had agreed with the Department to work five hours a day for six days a week, and that he could not find a substitute other than an established postman, whose pay would be about 3d. per hour more than that of an auxiliary, and in view of the manner in which this man has done the duty which he contracted to do for 16 years, he will reconsider his decision and re-instate him.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Shrimpton's services were dispensed with, not for declining to work on Sundays, but because, without waiting for his appeal on that subject to be submitted to me, he deliberately refused to carry out the orders of his superior officers. He was not an established officer and only employed for a portion of his time. He had no agreement with the Department, and his services could be discontinued at any time on a week's notice.

Christmas Work in the Post Office.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether, in the distribution of the extra work that occurs in his Department during the Christmas and New Year pressure, he will, wherever possible, give preference in such work to those who are at present without any employment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Arrangements for meeting this extra pressure of work have already been completed, but the hon. Gentleman will be glad to know that since, generally speaking, the whole time of the additional men engaged is required, they are necessarily selected from those without other employment. I may add that, other things being equal, preference is given to ex-soldiers and Army reservists out of work.

Post Office—Special Leave Regulations.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Postmaster General if he will state what decision he has arrived at in regard to the appeal made to him by Members of Parliament to modify the new special leave regulations.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have already addressed a letter on the subject to the hon. Member for South Islington informing him that, after full consideration, I am unable to depart from the decision arrived at by my predecessor. I may add that a similar communication has been addressed to the officers who memorialised me on the subject.

Education Bill—Nominated Members of Education Committees.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if it would be competent for a County Council, under the provisions of Clause 18 of the Education (England and Wales) Bill, to refuse to accept a particular nominee of an outside body to serve on an education committee; and if the Board of Education will confirm a scheme providing that persons should be appointed by the County Council from among the nominees of certain outside bodies.

THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The first part of the hon. Member's Question can be raised this afternoon in discussion on the Lords Amendments. The second part can only be answered as the occasion arises.

Irish Stationery Office Tenders.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the condition of tendering for Irish Stationery Office contracts that contractors shall take all paper, cardboard, vellum, leather, cloth, and other raw material from the Department; and whether, in view of the effect of this condition in the case of employers in the printing business in the provincial cities and towns of Ireland as compared with those of Dublin owing to the charges for freight from and to Dublin, he will take steps to have such materials delivered to contractors from Irish provincial towns free of charge.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HAYES FISHER, Fulham): The hon. Member is under some misapprehension. The Stationery Office do not supply cardboard, vellum, leather, cloth, and other similar raw material to contractors. As regards paper, I have nothing to add to the reply given by my predecessor on May 7th, 1901.†

South Dublin Union—Building Loan.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state on what grounds the Treasury have refused to recommend to the South Dublin Union a loan of £7,500 for building the Roman Catholic chapel and officers' quarters in the lunatic department; and whether, in view of the solvency of the Union and the fact that the poor rates are 1s. 7d. in the pound, as compared with 1s. 9d. in the previous year, he will take steps to have this loan issued without further delay.

MR. HAYES FISHER: The Local Government Board sanctioned this loan, repayable in forty years. But in so doing, it was pointed out that in view of the high rates prevailing, which amount to 9s. 3d. in the pound in this area, the Treasury felt unable to authorise the issue of the loan by the Commissioners of Public Works until some reduction in the rates had been effected. It would be necessary, therefore, to obtain the loan from a bank or by tender in the open market.

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† See (4) *Debates*, xciii., 956.

Irish Lights Board.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the Admiralty inquiry respecting the correction of the existing list of Irish lights, any measures will be taken by the Government to reconstitute the Irish Lights Board and place it on a more representative basis.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I am afraid I can add nothing to the replies I have already given the hon. Member upon this subject.

Rae Estate Killorglin, Kerry.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain the cause of the delay in the sale of the estate of W. L. Rae, Killorglin, Kerry.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Land Commissioners hope soon to be in a position to make their Report on this estate to the Land Judge. No avoidable delay has taken place.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Examiner in the Land Judges' Court has refused to furnish a detailed account of the receipts and expenditure of the estate of W. L. Rae, Killorglin, Kerry; and whether, seeing that it was formerly promised that such an account should be furnished on application by the landlord, he will take steps to furnish him with a full account of the receipts and expenditure of the estate since it was placed in the present Receiver's hands.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I stated on the 29th October that copies of the Receiver's account would be supplied to Mr. Rae on payment of the usual fees for copying. The Receiver has since given a copy of his account to Mr. Rae.

Imprisoned Irish Members.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many Members of Parliament are in prison as the result of sentences pronounced between the 27th October and the 14th December last by courts constituted under the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887.

Mr. WYNDHAM: None, Sir.

Tipperary County Infirmary.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what grounds the Local Government Board refuse to grant sworn inquiries into the management of county infirmaries that are supported out of the county rates; and what steps have they taken to remedy the alleged abuses with regard to the Tipperary county infirmary.

Mr. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S): Is it not the fact that the Tipperary County Council is thoroughly competent to manage this infirmary?

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Board has not, in any case, been asked to hold a sworn inquiry into the management of a county infirmary. In reply to the latter part of the Question, I have nothing to add to my reply to the Hon. Member's previous Question of the 24th November. †

Mr. TULLY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the managers of this infirmary have refused to carry out their financial business according to the instructions of the auditor, and that a lot of swindling is going on——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Women Inspectors of Boarded-out Children.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the salaries and travelling expenses paid to the two lady inspectors of boarded-out children, and to what fund are these sums charged.

Mr. WYNDHAM: £200 a year in each case, together with first-class railway fare. The cost is defrayed out of the Local Government Board Vote.

Sir F. J. Hort's Estate, Co. Cavan.

Mr. M'GOVERN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the estate of the late Sir F. J. Hort, in the County of Cavan, was ordered to be sold by the Land Judge in 1893, and has been in the hands of a receiver since that date; and can he state why the judge's order was not carried out, or why the estate has not been offered to the tenants under the provisions of the 40th section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxv., 248.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Land Judge is informed that at present this property cannot be sold to the tenants, as the redemption of the superior interests would amount to more than any sum which would be expected to be advanced by the Land Commission. He is also informed that the tenants are aware of the difficulty.

Irish High Sheriffs.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state who is the officer responsible for investigating and reporting to the Crown on the eligibility and qualification for the office of high sheriff of a county in Ireland of the names returned to the Lord Lieutenant by the going Judge of Assize in each year out of which the selection is made of the high sheriff for the ensuing year.

MR. WYNDHAM: The practice is that three names selected by the judges are submitted to the Lord Lieutenant and published in the Press. His Excellency almost invariably selects one name from the list. There is no officer whose special duty it is to inquire into the fitness of the persons named in the judge's lists, but his Excellency is quite ready to receive information on the matter from any reliable source.

MR. O'DOHERTY: Is there no statutory obligation on the Lord Lieutenant to inquire as to their property qualifications?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not sure it is a statutory obligation, but as the sheriff may have certain charges to defray, it is proper to ascertain perhaps that he has the necessary means.

Scarva (Down) Police Barracks.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on whose recommendation the advice of the local magistrates has been rejected in the matter of the proposed re-establishment of the police barracks at Scarva, County Down; and whether he can state the character of the extra steps to be taken for the preservation of the peace in that locality.

MR. WYNDHAM: The views of the Magistrates were carefully considered; but the police authorities, who are responsible for the preservation of the peace of the locality, do not consider it necessary to re-establish this station. I have already stated that there are three other barracks within a radius of three miles, and that ample protection will be given to all persons needing it.

Newcastle and Ballyrooney Railway.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what steps have been taken by the Belfast and County Down Railway Company towards the construction of their part of the new railway line between Newcastle and Ballyrooney; and whether he can give any indication as to the time which will be occupied in completing the construction.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no information beyond the fact that on Monday last application was made by the Railway Company to the Board of Works to appoint an Arbitrator in connection with the taking of land. The statutory period for the completion of the line extends to the 30th July, 1905.

Mullingar Lunatic Asylum Accounts.

MR. M'GOVERN: I have to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state who was the Auditor who audited the accounts of the Mullingar Lunatic Asylum for the years 1899, 1900, and 1901, and who certified the accounts were correct for each of these years: seeing that it was afterwards found that the accounts were incorrect for some of these years, will he state what was the amount of rates embezzled by the

Clerk; and whether this Auditor is still employed by the Local Government Board.

MR. WYNDHAM: In reply to the first paragraph of the Question, the auditor was Major Eccles, who is still the Auditor of the district comprising Mullingar. Upon his audit for the half-year ended September, 1901, he discovered that frauds had been committed by the late Clerk, and that the earliest fraud took place in that month. Frauds of a prior date were subsequently traced, but they were connected with monies not brought to account in the Asylum books. The Auditor could have had no knowledge of these; they could only have been detected, if by any one, by the Committee of Management or the Resident Medical Superintendent. So far as is known, the amount misappropriated is about £663.

MR. M'GOVERN: Why was the Auditor not able to detect the frauds?

MR. WYNDHAM: He did.

Dillon Estate.

MR. CAREW (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary whether he can state on what grounds the Congested Districts Board took proceedings at the last Boyle Quarter Sessions against occupiers on the Dillon estate; what was the total amount due and the number proceeded against, and whether the Congested Districts Board have since taken any further steps in reference to the comments made in Committee on that occasion.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of tenants on the Dillon Estate is considerably above 4,000. The Congested Districts Board took proceedings against thirteen tenants for a total amount of £134 2s. 7d. But nine of these cases, involving a sum of £81 9s. 1d., were non-agricultural. No question of purchase under the Land Acts can arise in connection with them. The proceedings were taken in respect of ground rents and townfields. Four cases, involving £52 3s. 6d., were agricultural. But, in these, proceedings were taken to clear title with a view to re-arranging boundaries. In no case had the holding been sold to the tenant. The Congested Districts Board wrote on the 14th November to Judge O'Connor Morris drawing his attention to these facts, which he had unfortunately overlooked when commenting on these cases. It is much to be regretted that the learned Judge should have been misled by misrepresentations persistently put forward, in order, apparently, to discount the commendable punctuality with which the Dillon and other tenants on estates purchased by the Board have discharged their obligations.

English Officials in the Irish P.O.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether, in view of the discontent in the Irish postal service caused by the system of appointment of English and Scotch postal officials to Irish offices, he will undertake that in future appointments the claims of competent officials resident in Ireland will be favourably considered.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I must ask the hon. Member to refer to the reply which I gave yesterday to the Question put to me by the hon. Member for South Leitrim,† to which I can add nothing.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Why does the right hon Gentleman give these appointments to officials who have absolutely no local knowledge?

(No answer was returned).

Dundalk Postmastership.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster General, with reference to the recent vacancy in the postmastership of Dundalk, if he will say how many applications were received for this vacancy, and of the total number what was the proportion received from members serving respectively in Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland; what is the length of service of the official appointed in the present instance; whether he originally held the position of counter clerk in a London office, if so, whether he can state the date of his first promotion from this position, also the dates of promotions to other offices and the respective salaries; and what was the length of service, salary, and official position of the most senior applicant from Ireland for this vacancy.

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† See preceding volume, page 1339.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Thirty-seven applications were received. From Ireland twenty-six, England and Wales, eight, Scotland three. The official appointed, who, I may say, was an Irishman, had thirty-five years service. He was originally a postman, but was appointed a counter clerk in a London office in 1873. From that position he was promoted to the postmastership of Letterkenny in August, 1890, salary £160. In May, 1898, he was promoted to the Postmastership of Leek, salary £210; in November, 1900, to the postmastership of Poole, salary £230. The length of service of the senior applicant on the list of candidates from Ireland was thirty-seven years; his salary was £237, and his official position was that of postmaster.

Edgeworthstown Postmastership.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster General, with reference to the vacancy which has recently existed in the postmastership of Edgeworthstown, whether he can state how many applications were received for this vacancy, and of these how many came from officials serving respectively in Ireland, England and Scotland; what is the salary attached to the office, and what is the length of service, salary, and official designation of the member of the Lanark staff appointed to this vacancy in the first instance; what was the length of service, salary, and position of the most senior applicant from Ireland, and to what office attached; and can he say how many members of the service holding appointments in Ireland have been appointed to postmasterhips in Scotland within the last twenty-five years; and, if any, to what offices they were appointed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have already answered fully two somewhat similar Questions put by the hon. Member, but I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by giving all the particulars asked for in this Question, which could not be collected without considerable labour. I accept of course full responsibility for the appointments which I make, but I deprecate any attempt to discuss the relative merits of different candidates by way of Question and Answer in this House. I may, however, say that the officer first appointed to this position declined the appointment. I then offered it to an officer in the Galway Post Office who, however, also declined it, and I have now offered it to a candidate from Castlebar.

MR. MACVEAGH: Is it not the case that these appointments were only offered to Irishmen after Scotchmen had refused them?

[No answer was returned.]

Waziri Expedition.

MR. CREMER: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the military operations recently directed against the Waziri and other Afghan tribes are carried on in the mountain regions of what has been called the New Province, lying beyond the boundaries of His Majesty's Indian Possessions; if a copy of the Orders directing the commencement of these hostilities will be communicated to both Houses of Parliament before the end of the present session, in accordance with section 54 of the Act of 1858; if the consent of both Houses of Parliament will be invited to authorise the expenses of these military operations carried on beyond the frontiers of British India; and whether the cost will be defrayed from the revenues of India, or be paid from the British Treasury.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR was understood to reply that the matters referred to in the Question did not come within the purview of the Act cited.

Session of 1903.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, in view of the duration of the present Session of Parliament, he is able to fix an approximate date when Parliament will reassemble in 1903.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it will be necessary for this House to reassemble, so far as we are at present aware, before February 17.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman make it a couple of months later?

Education Bill—Elementary Instruction for Adults in Evening Schools.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, in the present form of Clause 22 of the Education Bill, it would be competent for any local authority to provide purely elementary instruction for adult students in an evening school.

At the same time may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in view of the terms of Clause 2 of the Education Bill to the effect that the moneys available from the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Fund and the rate in aid contemplated under the Clause are only available for education other than elementary, it would be competent for any local authority to use these moneys for giving elementary instruction to adults in an evening school; and, if not, out of what funds the local authority would be able to maintain such instruction.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In reply to the first Question, the hon. gentleman correctly states the position. The rate for education other than elementary may be used for all forms of education and in any kind of school except a public elementary school. If the hon. Gentleman will look at the definition in Clause 23, sub-Section 3, he will see that that is made perfectly clear. As regards the second Question, it follows from what I have just said that the money available from the local taxation fund is applicable for the purposes of education in an evening school; that is, if the education is in an evening continuation school it can be paid for out of that fund.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will the right hon. Gentleman say, "Yes" or "No," if it will be competent for a local authority to give purely elementary instruction to an adult in an evening school?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir. The answer to that Question is in the affirmative.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Uganda Railway Bill, without Amendment.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Lords Amendment further considered.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 5, line 8, after 'authority,' insert 'shall as regards its character be.'"

The next Amendment read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

(3.0) LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): This is the main question about which many of us have complained of the action of my hon. and gallant friend and the Government, and I think it is necessary to say some final word about the controversy which has so long engaged the attention of this House. It would have been competent, of course, to any hon. Member of this House to have moved an Amendment which would have raised expressly the main issues about which we have been contending, namely, the issue whether an incumbent ought or ought not to be deprived by the managers of the right he now enjoys in the majority of cases under the trust deeds, of himself providing and undertaking the religious teaching in a Church school. I do not myself move such an Amendment, because it does not seem to me to serve any good purpose to press the House to a division upon a subject upon which it has so often declared its opinion, but as the question now is whether we should finally agree with the Lords Amendment, which apparently—we do not know what interpretation will be put upon it—destroys the right of the incumbent to teach in a school except with the consent of the managers, it is necessary to say a few words of final protest against the course which has been taken. Our objection to that course is, first of all, that the rights of incumbents existing under trust deeds are just as important and just as deserving of respect as any other of the rights arising under these deeds, and, therefore, in so far as denominational education deserves respect at all, it is respect out of deference to a right which is precisely the same, and neither more nor less sacred than the right of the incumbent which is disregarded. In my view there is no reason for giving Church teaching in any Church school that cannot be urged for allowing the incumbent to supervise the teaching. The rights are exactly parallel, and the distinction now drawn most unjust and indefensible. That is my first objection to the Clause.

My second is that, if not in express words, in substance and reality there is an unmistakable censure and condemnation passed upon the work of those who, in my view, do not deserve censure but rather the gratitude of the community. This censure, in effect, is not minimised because veiled by the language of panegyric and eulogium used in both Houses. What is in effect conveyed is that the clergy are not to be trusted save under lay control to do what it is their express duty to do, namely, the teaching of religion, and put it in whatever phase you please; this is a real censure and an undeserved censure which ought, and will be, deeply resented. But here I must be concise, or I shall be trespassing upon another Amendment. In reference to matters of doctrine I do not think that the restriction of the rights of the Bishop is anything but another insult to the wisdom and integrity of the Episcopal Bench, not made any better by the manner in which it was conveyed in another place. I do not suppose it ever happened before that the Episcopate of the Anglican Church has been invited to give an assurance, and when that assurance was given has been told that it is altogether inadequate, implying that at the worst they were deliberate liars, and at the best boasters who made promises that they could not carry out.

*MR. SPEAKER: The noble Lord seems to be entering on a very wide discussion of a very narrow Amendment. I was under the impression that this was a drafting Amendment.

LORD HUGH CECIL: I think that the character of the religious instruction raises the question to which I am solely addressing myself. The words of the Amendment "shall as regards its character" limit the operation of the trust deed to the character of the religious instruction. It does not allow the trust deed to operate in respect of the person who is to supervise the teaching. I intend to make my observations relevant to that Amendment, and if I have trespassed it is unintentionally.

*MR. SPEAKER: The noble Lord is right, and if he keeps to those lines he will be in order.

LORD HUGH CECIL: I do not intend to go beyond the lines of that argument. My third objection is that I think a wrong is done in overthrowing the rights of the incumbents not only to the clergy and the bishops, but also to the members of the Church of England. Neither the theory of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife as to the State relationship, nor that of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister as to the family relationship with these schools, can be sustained for a moment. The schools do not bear any relationship to the family. The parents are neither formally nor informally represented on the board of management. There is not the slightest ground for thinking that they will reflect in any real degree the opinion of the parents. The clergyman himself is most in touch with the ideas of the parents as to the education of their children. Although I am aware that the Government do not hold that view, I believe this argument can only be defended on the hypothesis that this is a Church school, and that the lay members had a right to supersede the incumbent in his theological views. That sets up a principle to which all those who are sincerely attached to the constitution of the Church of England are unalterably opposed, and I very much regret that in this Bill steps should have been taken to raise in this Clause issues of the most far-reaching importance, the raising of which cannot but alienate very much indeed members of the Church one from another and a large number of the members of the Church from the Government and those whom they hold responsible for introducing this provision in the Bill.

Next I regret very much that a standard, not of orthodoxy, not of right teaching, not of wisdom, but of popularity, should have been erected for clergymen of the Church of England. The clergyman is to be deprived of his right under the trust deed, not because he teaches what is not the doctrine of the Church of England—very likely as many will give what is not right teaching in the future as in the past, for the Bill gives no security that they shall not—but because they are not popular, and not popular with the upper and middle class among their parishioners; perhaps because they have quarrelled with a bad landlord about the condition of his cottages, or with a trader who carries on business by dishonest methods, or a publican whose house is ill-managed, or a farmer who grinds down his labourers. I dare say some religious pretext in such cases may not be found wanting to drive a clergyman away from his schools. Such is the standard of ministerial duty that will be set up. Before all things they must be popular, not with the poor, but with those who are rich and well to do. To set up such a standard is in a very real sense to do wrong to the Church of England and to lower the standard of public duty among the ministers of that Church. My right hon. friend in a speech recently delivered made an appeal to those who have to work the Bill to carry it out loyally and with a real disposition to make it work. I hope and believe the appeal will be responded to; but I am sure it will not be responded to in regard to this particular provision. The general character of the Bill is, no doubt, of such a kind that those who wish well to denominational schools will endeavour to the best of their ability to make it work, but if there are to be found anywhere managers who are so disloyal to the character of the Church of England as to endeavour to supersede the clergyman without any authority from or approval of the Bishop, I am quite sure that every means that can be taken will be taken to resist them. If there is any ambiguity in the trust deed the matter will be carried to litigation. In any case there is always the pressure of public opinion to give or withhold financial support, and my right hon. friend and the Government may be quite sure that no considerations of peace or tranquility will stand in the way of those who feel that they are maintaining a great and important principle by resisting the character of this Amendment.

I believe that the Government have done a most unwise thing in allowing this Amendment of the Bill. The real grievance might have been dealt with more easily and efficaciously by other means. They have chosen a course which is offensive to the religious sentiment of a large portion of the Church of England, very offensive to the clergy, very offensive to the Bishops. I trust that in the contest that may perhaps arise out of this Amendment they will maintain their efforts, not in disregard of the supreme interest of the religious education of the schools, but being sure that that religious character of the Church of England and the maintenance of its principles are the fundamental conditions under which alone that religious education can be properly carried out in this country—I hope they will charitably but manfully, and without cessation, maintain their efforts until they have succeeded in inducing Parliament to relinquish a policy which in an evil hour they undertook, and of which I am persuaded that the longer it is persisted in the more certain it will be found to be one of those blunders into which States are hurried when they offend the religious sentiment of a part of the community.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I feel that my noble friend who has just sat down has spoken out of the fulness of his heart upon a subject on which he feels very strongly, and in a cause in which he is conscientiously prepared to sacrifice many public interests; and one owes much sympathy to any one who addresses this House, and, through the House the country, as an advocate of a cause which, after all the discussion, in this House and in another place, must be regarded as an unpopular cause. Anybody who, I say, advocates principles which are unpopular principles, out of a deep religious conviction deserves, and will obtain, the sympathy of all who hear him. But having paid that tribute to my noble friend's motives, I confess that, after hearing him again on this subject, the feelings of regret with which I have heard him on frequent occasions during these debates have not been in any way diminished or alleviated. I do not pretend to understand exactly the line of argument on which my noble friend relies. He has mixed up in the speech to which we have just listened two sets of considerations which appear to me to be utterly diverse, and which I do not think will run as a well-matched pair for the controversial purposes for which my noble friend desires to use them. He partly relies on the theological argument and partly on the legal argument. In other words, he partly relies on his view of the position in the Church of England a clergyman necessarily occupies in the parish where he officiates; and partly he derives his argument from the fact that, in his view, certain trust deeds are violated or affected by the Kenyon-Slaney Clause. These really are quite separate arguments; and the practical answer is evident when you remember that in a large number of schools, and in a large number of Church of England schools, the clergyman has no special rights whatever under trust deeds. Very well; is the doctrine of the Church of England violated in the case of these schools which have no trust deeds? If it is we have not heard of it before. My noble friend has never protested that sacred inviolate ecclesiastical doctrines are being tampered with when the clergyman, by trust deed, is not given special rights in these schools in regard to religious education. If that be so, I think my noble friend is very ill-advised to rely on what I have described as the legal argument in defence of his position. The legal argument is merely incidental. My noble friend complained that the Government have tampered with trust deeds, and I do not deny that the Bill does affect the trust deeds of voluntary schools, and I do not believe that any Bill dealing with elementary education which admitted voluntary schools to any share in public money could avoid making alterations in their trust deeds. The change in the position of schools is so great, is so fundamental, that some alteration is necessary unless these schools are to be entirely left outside the scope of your legislation. But supposing it were a crime to touch these trust deeds, who incited the Government to commit that crime? Why, the two Houses of Convocation. I shall have a word to say about the Resolution passed by the two Houses of Convocation directly. My noble friend may perhaps differ from my contention, but he will not differ from what I now urge upon the attention of the House. Surely he cannot differ from me because all I am stating is that the Committee of the two Houses of Convocation deliberately suggested that legislation should be brought in which would add to the existing managers two from outside.

LORD HUGH CECIL said trust deeds were broken in consequence of the arrangements for secular education; but why, on his right hon. friend's principle, should he not go the whole length of the Opposition and say that denominational instruction should be put under popular control? There was only one rational line of division between religious and secular instruction, and that he thought the Government had taken, but it was inconsistent with the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not dealing with the theological problem. I am dealing now entirely with the legal branch of the argument. Am I to understand that you may violate a trust-deed in regard to secular property, and that you may not violate it in dealing with religious instruction?

LORD HUGH CECIL said in consideration of the use of public money there was interference with secular instruction.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is not a question of altering trust deeds. My noble friend is trying to run together two quite different lines of argument. It seems to me that he has no case whatever on the legal aspect, and I leave the legal branch of his argument and come to that to which, I think, he attaches far more importance and on which he places more reliance. He has attacked something I said in a previous speech in which I said an elementary school had more analogy to the family than it had to the service and work carried on in the ecclesiastical edifice, be it the church or the chapel in a parish. My noble friend disputes that proposition. He has pointed out with perfect truth that the analogy is not in any sense complete, and that it would be absurd to say that a child in school is precisely in the same position as the child in the family, but I do distinctly reiterate the argument I used, which was to this effect, that in the education given in an elementary school you do for the children of the poorer classes that which in regard to the children of the richer classes is, if not invariably, commonly done in the domestic circle by the parents themselves, or by persons engaged for the purpose. It seems to me perfectly clear that when you are dealing with the children of the poor, and providing them with the education their parents have not the time or money which their richer neighbours can afford, that when you compel them to send their children to an elementary school and say to them you propose that not only shall the children obtain secular education, but also that religious instruction, which, if the children were educated under easier circumstances at home the parents would give them—then I say the analogy is extremely close. Though it is perfectly true you cannot describe any part of the elementary school system as giving a complete representation of the parental care of the children, surely it is absurd to say that since there is this distinction between the school and the family as a necessary consequence you must regard the clergyman as having the sole authority in that instruction.

Lord HUGH CECIL said the whole conception of the school was that it should be conducted on the principles of the denomination, and if those principles were abandoned, then there was really no answer to the opposition.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Then the school is not conducted in accordance with the principles of the denomination unless the clergyman has control!

Lord HUGH CECIL: Not in the Church of England.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am referring to Church of England schools, but I cannot go the length to which my noble friend goes. I agree that the natural leader of religious thought should be the clergyman, the natural guide in education should be the clergyman; but that there is this inalienable right upon which nobody should trespass—that there is this fundamental right and responsibility—there I cannot go with my noble friend. I have never put this matter on criticism of the clergy, but I quite agree, and it is impossible to deny, that a great deal of the controversy has arisen in large sections of the community from the fact that certain of the clergy have shown themselves utterly unfitted to carry out this duty that my noble friend says devolves upon them. I do not say there are many cases, but that there are some, my noble friend, of course, could not think of denying for a moment. There was a case mentioned the other day by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, which I think was accepted as authentic in its main details. I am sure my noble friend will not deny that there have been certain cases where clergymen have shown themselves quite unfit to conduct the education as the sole authority. But I am disposed to go further and ask my noble friend how far he means to press his contention. So far as I understand it, it is that he thinks that the clergymen should be in precisely the same position during the hours of religious instruction in the school as he is in during the service in the parish church. If that is the position he thinks clergymen ought to occupy, then I say clergymen as a whole have deliberately abandoned it. A clergyman in a parish church does much more than superintend the instruction or service carried on. He does the work himself. He very rightly regards himself as the person, and the one person only, directly commissioned to carry out and direct the offices of religion. But what does he do in the school? In a very large number of parishes he delegates the whole work of religious instruction to laymen. I think that in most cases he acts rightly in so doing, not because laymen are more qualified to teach religion to children, but because the schoolmaster is more qualified to teach religion to children in large numbers; a schoolmaster is an expert; he is accustomed to keep discipline; he knows the individual children, and their scholastic idiosyncrasies; he is trained to instil knowledge into young minds; he is an expert, and does the educational work better than the man who is not an expert. I believe that it is for the interests of religious teaching that this work is in a large measure done by laymen, but if the position of the clergymen in the school is to be similar and on all fours with his position in the parish church, then I say he has not the slightest right to delegate the duty to laymen, and I should like to know on what theological ground my noble friend would justify it.

Lord HUGH CECIL said the position was not entirely on all fours, but the same principle was involved.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: We get far from a divine mission when the mission is carried out by the casual layman. My noble friend has not been content throughout all these controversies to merely express with great ability and eloquence his own opinions, which I know are largely shared by many persons outside; but he has attacked the Government with great severity on every occasion he has spoken where I say the Government are not open to his criticisms. We have never concealed the view we took on this question from the beginning. This is not a surprise policy started in the later stages of this Bill; this policy of what is called the Kenyon-Slaney Clause was the policy of the Bill from the beginning, and I believe it was the policy of the two Houses of Convocation when they passed the famous Resolution in favour of having some additional representation on the boards of management. I will call my noble friend's attention, and the attention of all who hear me, and of all who do me the honour to read me, to the terms of the Resolution, which run as follows—

> "That the government of every school, and especially the appointment and the dismissal of the teachers, be left in the hands of the present committee of management, with the addition of certain members appointed by or under rules made by the local authority, such additional members not to exceed one-third of the whole number."

I really want to know whether, when the two Houses of Convocation passed that Resolution, they intended the world and the Legislature to believe that when they talked of the government of the school being handed over to a body thus composed, it really meant that the government of the school in certain particulars should be handed over to the body thus composed, but that in so important and controverted a subject as the religious education of the children, it was not to be handed over to that body at all, but should be retained exclusively, at all events in certain schools, in the hands of one single individual.

Lord HUGH CECIL: What was then before the public and before Convocation was the question of the public authority as against managerial authority. No one's mind was directed to the incumbent's authority as against the managerial authority. That did not arise at all.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Am I really to believe that when the two Houses of Convocation were considering the form of government they wanted to see adopted in Church schools they forgot all about the religious teaching? It may be so. I am not attacking Convocation. I am defending the Government, and all I say is that the defence of the Government is complete. My noble friend's explanation of the conduct of Convocation may also be complete. All I say is that we, being poor, fallible laymen, should not be blamed for interpreting their words in their plain and obvious signification, and as carrying with them the inference and conclusion that when they said the government of the school was to be given to a body of a certain kind they meant exactly what they said. That is the first point I have got to make in defence of the Government—a thing which I should not have undertaken if my noble friend had not, not for the first time, made this vehement attack upon them. May I remind the House of the last thing I should ever wish to remind them of—my own old speeches? As the Minister in charge of the Bill, I have had to speak on it on many occasions both in this House and out of it—occasions of great publicity, occasions on which what I said was fully reported both in *Hansard* and in the Press. I explicitly stated, for example, on the Second Reading of the Bill, that the principle of the measure as regards the management of the schools was the abolition of one man management. I stated that in perfectly plain terms.

Lord HUGH CECIL: I do not deny that.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then my noble friend has relieved me from the wearisome task of reading extracts from my speeches. He admits, then, that on the Second Reading, and on other occasions quite early in the discussions on the Bill, I made it clear that that was the principle of the measure.

LORD HUGH CECIL: I admit you said it. My point is that you did not make it perfectly clear.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then I am afraid I must read one or two extracts, although I do not want to bore the House. This is what I said, for instance, to the deputation of Nonconformists that waited upon me soon after the Bill was read a second time—

> "No doubt what are known as voluntary schools will retain a denominational majority on the board of managers, and the board of managers will select the teachers, subject, in every case, to the approval of the local authority, and deal with religious instruction."

And then I went on to say—

> "It has been constantly stated as an objection that the schools are often under the simple management of the parson of the parish. Please observe that 'one man-managed' education will no longer exist after this Bill is passed, and lay members of the community will then be in an immense majority, not merely on the education authority, but on the local boards of management. Henceforth what the management do, will be done in public, and when I remember that, even under the existing system, the number of children withdrawn by their parents from religious instruction is almost infinitesimal, I think I may fairly claim from every impartial investigator of the subject that, so far as the parents are concerned, the Bill leaves little to be desired."

LORD HUGH CECIL: I did not mean to complain of my right hon. friend. All I meant to say was that he was certainly not so understood.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then I will read another sentence. It is a speech I made in this House on July 21. The House was in Committee on what was then Clause 7, the whole object of which was to give a denominational majority on the board of management. In the early stages of the discussions upon that famous Clause I said this—

> "Under the plan of the Government the whole of the six managers were equally concerned in the selection of the teachers and the regulation of the religious curriculum. The religious education will be under the control, not of one man, and that man the parson of the parish, but of a board of six."

My noble friend says I did not make it clear. I may lack lucidity of expression on many occasions; but on this occasion I surely did, if only by accident, blunder into a phrase which was absolutely precise and unmistakable, and which I do not think even a theologian can explain away. And all that time, while I was making these speeches, and while, it is not too much to say, the fate of this Bill was hanging in the balance, was I criticised on the subject by the leaders of ecclesiastical opinion in the country? I never received a single word of complaint or criticism from any public authority; nothing was stated on any public platform, nothing, as far as I remember, was ever written to me, until Clause 7 was through. Well, really, whoever else may be blamed, it is not the Government. Because what was Clause 7, the Clause on which we fought for three weeks? If I may remind the House, if it needs reminding, that Clause was a Clause to give a denominational majority on the boards of management of the voluntary schools. Is it to be supposed that this House would ever have thought of passing Clause 7 if they had known that that Clause was to be interpreted as meaning, not that the board of management thus constituted was to have the control of religious teaching in the school, but that it was only to have the control in those particular cases where the trust deeds did not otherwise provide? If I had got up and made the announcement that that was the policy of the Government, or if my noble friend had said that he understood the Clause in that way, or if he had said then that by taking the course we had done we had alienated Church opinion, what would have happened to Clause 7? Would this House have looked at it? I had difficulty enough in passing it as it was, and the difficulty was not confined to Gentlemen on the other side of the House. I had difficulty with those who are among my most constant and loyal friends on this side of the House. What would those difficulties have been if I had told the House that

Clause 7, which it was thought, on the face of it, was giving too much to the denominational majority, had an occult, secret, and recondite meaning which, when revealed, showed that not merely was there to be a denominational majority upon these boards of management, but that there was to be a denominational absolutism given into the hands of one individual in the case of every school which had trust deeds of a particular kind? If I had said that, we should not have been discussing the Lords Amendments to this Bill to-day, and my noble friend would have been contemplating Church principles in the abstract without having to consider their relation to a Bill, which I think he must admit has done as much as the friends of the Church could possibly hope for to render denominational teaching a practical possibility in the public elementary schools of this country.

My noble friend says that no considerations of peace will induce him and his friends to desist from agitation against this Clause when the Bill is passed. From what I know of my noble friend I am sure he is not making a boast which he will not absolutely fulfil. I do not believe that any consideration of peace will restrain him, but I must frankly say that I think him ill-advised. No man has a greater authority than my noble friend amongst a most important, devoted and able section of the clergy of this country. They look up to him, they follow him, especially in matters in which politics and religion are both concerned. They regard him, and I think they rightly regard him, as the ablest exponent of their views. I think my noble friend ought to remember that, if he has thus gained and earned great power, he has with it taken upon himself a great responsibility. And as he has with great frankness told the House and the country what he thinks of the Government, I am bound honestly to tell him that he cannot do a worse service—I will not say to the Government and to the Party to which he belongs, because, rightly, he looks upon these considerations as inferior and subservient to those considerations which have a higher origin. I think he is doing much more than hat. He is doing a great disservice to the cause of that religious education of which he is so enthusiastic an advocate, and I believe he is driving deeper the wedge, which, unhappily, is separating certain classes of ecclesiastical opinion from the great body of religious lay opinion in this country, and in which I, at all events, see the greatest danger looming in the future to the cause of religion as a whole, and more especially to the cause, the welfare and the prosperity of the Church of England.

(3.45.) SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich has rendered a great service, first of all in stating the views he entertains, and secondly, in eliciting from the head of the Government the speech we have just heard. The view which the noble Lord has put forward is that the care of religion and the determination of the doctrines of the Church rest with the clergy and the Bishops. That is a fundamental contradiction of the principles of the established Protestant Church of England. It is true we were told the other day by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth that the doctrine of the Church of Rome was that religion belonged to the clergy and ultimately to the Bishops. Yes, Sir, and that is exactly the distinction between the Church of Rome and the Protestant Church of England. The Protestant Church of England does repudiate the supremacy of the clergy and the Bishops in the doctrine and practice of the Church. That rests with the laity and with the lay tribunal. The lay tribunal can equally call in question and deprive any clergyman or any Bishop from a violation of the doctrine of the Protestant Church as interpreted by the tribunal who represents the Crown and the laity in this country. I know very well that a section of the clergy who repudiate the name of Protestant have for their dearest object the getting rid of that lay tribunal which by the law of the Established Church has the final power to determine its doctrine and its practice. And if there is in those trust deeds, of which we do not know the contents, any pretension that the Bishop should have the final right of determining the doctrines of the

Church of England, it is in absolute conflict with the doctrine of the Established Church. The important point is, what is to be the position of those trust deeds? I am very glad to understand both from the noble Lord and the First Lord of the Treasury that this Amendment is to be understood as overruling altogether those trust deeds, except on the particular point which is reserved in this Clause. That is the main point, upon which we should have a very clear understanding, because in this Amendment and in the Bill we have the reservation of the trust deeds on one point alone, and that is upon the reservation of the appeal to the Bishop. I say that the pretension of the Bishop of determining the doctrine of the Church is a pretension which cannot be sustained for a single moment. You have got half a dozen Bishops laying down different doctrines and pursuing different practices, and every layman has the right to appeal against the decision of the Bishops on a point of doctrine to the lay tribunal, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The First Lord of the Treasury has said, very truly, and there is a great difference between the position of the clergyman in the church and the clergyman in the school, because as regards the school the children are compelled to go there, and no man is compelled to go to the church, and can remain away if he does not approve of its doctrines.

The First Lord of the Treasury has put forward in very clear and definite terms what is the real meaning and intent of this Clause. It is to do away with the practice, if it had been a practice, of the clergyman claiming any monopoly or exclusive right of religious teaching in the school, and to keep the control of religious teaching to the managers. It is of the essence of the Bill that the majority of the managers should be laymen, but I do not know why they should not manage to put on four managers who are clergymen. I do not know if that has occurred to the noble Lord as a proceeding which might be adopted. What I understand is that those managers may be regarded as persons who represent the lay opinion of that particular community as against the pretensions of the clergyman to impose upon them a form of teaching which is repugnant to their feelings and conviction. The First Lord of the Treasury referred to the case of the clergyman who tried to compel the schoolmaster to teach that the doctrine of the Church of England is that there were seven sacraments. I know it is the fashion to say that instances of this kind are rare. They are not rare. Anyone who reads the documents of the Church Union will know they are not rare. The author of the Kenyon-Slaney Amendment read a passage from a speech by the Bishop of Liverpool which would show that they are not rare at all. The Bishop of Liverpool complained of the clergy, and said he did not know what to do. He said "he had got a number of these people to deal with, and he did not know how to deal with them. He declined to be present at their services, to preach in their pulpits, to confirm in their churches, and to license any of the assistant clergy." That is to say, a Bishop's only resource is to boycott the disloyal clergymen. The noble Lord referred to the impatient explanation of the Duke of Devonshire in another place, and said, "You have got the power, why don't you use it?" That is the question. An extraordinary statement was made by the Bishop of Liverpool, that "if deprivation were substituted for imprisonment, it would be manifestly my duty to take the severer course." This is most extraordinary ignorance of ecclesiastical law on the part of the Bishop of Liverpool, for everybody knows that the penalty under the Church Discipline Act is not imprisonment, but deprivation. Why have the Bishops not taken that course? Why have these clergy not been deprived by the Bishops? Because some of the Bishops from sympathy, but more of them from fear, shrank from doing the duty which is imposed upon them by their oath of consecration. Because they had not restrained these practices, and had allowed them to go on and alienate from the Church the respect and affection of the laity of this country. It is mainly in consequence of the conduct of the Bishops in not enforcing the true doctrines and teaching of the Church of England that the conditions to which the right hon. Gentleman has referred have arisen. But now I understand that the object of the Government is to assert the right of the laity in the denominational schools to control the religious teaching. With the single exception of the appeal in point of doctrine to the Bishop, which is not and cannot be final—for no Bishop has the right finally to determine the doctrine of the Established Church—all matters which refer to religious teaching are, by the words of this Section, to belong to the managers. I am very glad it should be clearly understood that that is to be the controlling Clause which overrides any trust deeds existing now, or which may hereafter be made, because I am told that there is an active agency now engaged in manufacturing trust deeds. Suppose you have schools in connection with which no trust deed has existed hitherto, and there is a trust deed drawn up and a Clause put in that the religious teaching shall be under the control of the parson and nobody else. I understand that the Clause we are now considering will overrule that, and that no declaration in a trust deed giving exclusive power to the clergyman, with or without the Bishop, to conduct the religious education in the school shall stand against the words of the statute that the control of religious education shall belong to the lay managers. It is necessary that that should be clearly understood; and I state the case in these distinct terms in order that if there is any doubt it may be set right. If that is so, it is, of course, an absolute and decisive condemnation on the part of the Government and the House of Commons of the claim put forward by the noble Lord that religious education in the school is the monopoly of the clergy, Bishops, or ecclesiastics. This Bill is not meant, to borrow a phrase used by the right hon. Gentleman at the head of the Government, to represent the opinion of a clerical clique. That is a graphic expression and a very true one, and if that is so, a great service has been done by the noble Lord in bringing the matter clearly forward, and by the right hon. Gentleman in the conclusive reply he has made to that contention.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said he was very anxious to say a few words upon this Amendment, because he saw that among the various hard words that had been applied to him by authorities of the Church was one by the Dean of Chester that he was a "mob orator." That was rather hard on the conferences which he had often been invited to address. He would venture to say a word or two by way of an impartial reply to the speech made by his noble friend the Member for Greenwich who had attacked his Amendment so severely. He was afraid the noble Lord had been beguiled by the strength of his opinions into identifying himself with possible action which he would have only too good cause to regret. The noble Lord had taken exception to this Clause on the ground that it conveyed a censure on the clergy. He denied that the Clause conveyed a censure on the clergy as a whole, though it did upon some who had undoubtedly misconducted themselves. But the censure conveyed against those clergy was the same as would be conveyed by the Bishops themselves. The only difference was that this censure was expressed by the laity instead of by the Bishops. There was no censure on the clergy as a whole.

LORD HUGH CECIL said this Clause did not distinguish between one clergyman and another.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY thought that that distinction would be quickly made by the operation of this Clause. The noble Lord had spoken of this Clause as being an insult to the Bishops, but he did not know that it could be so considered. On the contrary, he thought that, so far from being an insult to the Bishops, it would fortify their position, enabling them better to restrain their exuberant clergy, and to assert more strongly than they had hitherto been able to do their authority. The noble Lord had spoken of its alienating the Church. He took the exactly opposite view. Instead of breaking up the Church, he held—and he claimed to voice a far greater number of clergy than the noble Lord in saying this—that it would promote more active sympathy, co-operation, and unity between them and the laity. The exclusion of an incumbent from his school was a power very rarely used, but if it were it would only show that the incumbent was not a man of ordinary commonsense. He regretted extremely the threat with which his noble friend concluded his speech.

LORD HUGH CECIL said he used no threat. All he said was that in a case where the Clause was enforced in such a way as to exclude a clergyman without the consent of the Bishops, it would be the duty of the Church to resist it.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said the threat of the noble Lord would, if acted upon, be an unfortunate thing for those who associated themselves with him. He warned those who might take up a position of opposition to the working of the Act that they would be opening the sluice-gates of a great flood of public opinion, which would not only overwhelm them individually in their own parishes but would wash away the very foundations of the Church itself. It was his deliberate opinion that in a large number of rural parishes this Clause would retain, or win back where it was lost, the confidence of parents in the teaching of the only school which was available for their children, whether these parents were Anglicans or Nonconformists; and if, as the result of that confidence, the children attended school in larger numbers, the Clause would have done a good deal for the common cause of education. They were not trying to set up little colleges for the encouragement of theological disputants, or training schools for the discussion of abstract points of theological philosophy. They merely desired to ensure that in this country there should be that simple effectual religious teaching which would fortify and safeguard the children against the difficulties and dangers of after life. The close association of the laity with the clergy could work only in the direction of making the religious instruction more in consonance with that which the great bulk of the people desired — a result that would be for the good of the children, and, therefore, for the welfare of the nation. As he had followed the controversy that had raged around this subject, he had become more and more assured that the Amendment was one which could be accepted in the certain hope that it would work well for all those to whom it was intended to apply.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire had once more attacked the High Church Party, and had brought forward as a reason for excluding the Bishops from their proper sphere the dictum of the Bishop of Liverpool. But that particular Prelate represented only a very small portion of the Church of England, and he alone of all the Bishops had endeavoured to bring into disrepute the authority of the Episcopate and the clergy of the Church. If the Bishop or the priest of the parish was good enough to preach on Sunday, to lay down doctrine to a well-educated congregation, to visit those in trouble or distress, and to give comfort and consolation in the hour of sickness and death, surely he was good enough to teach the young in the schools. There was hardly a Member of the House but had been glad to welcome the advice and consolation of the clergy in houses of need, and were they, the grief having passed away, to forget the comfort brought to them by those they now sought to ignore? If so, gratitude had left the members of every section of religion, and he did not care to belong to such a religion. Every priest, whether Roman Catholic or Anglican, endeavoured to endear himself to his congregation; and was he to be excluded from the school simply because one or two members of his congregation differed from him on points of doctrine? He earnestly hoped that all Members of the House who had ever received any good whatsoever from their Church would go into the Lobby in support of what the Bishops had done.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) thought that, being Vice- Chairman of the House of Laymen of the Province of York, he might speak as the representative of a considerable body of lay opinion. Though not directly authorised to speak on behalf of the House of Laymen, he should not have been elected to the position of vice-chairman had his opinion not concurred with the predominant feeling of the members. The great majority of Church-going and Church-loving laymen did not share the apprehensions of alarm expressed by the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich. He believed that the effect of the Clause would be highly beneficial to the Church, as it would tend to increase lay co-operation, and the consequent harmonious concert between clergy and laity would result in the increased strength arising from mutual confidence. He might mention that, according to the phraseology of the trust deeds of the National Society, the authority given to the clergy was that of superintendence. The word "teaching" did not occur, and judging from the old discussions with reference to the trust deed he thought there was some good reason for the omission of the word. Much was heard in these days of the desire to increase lay power in the Church of England, and he could not express too strongly his deep regret that this, the first effort to give by legislation new power to laymen, should be resisted by a large section of the clerical party. That opposition was a bad omen and excited great alarm. He hoped the House would support the Clause, as he was certain that it would work for good, promote peace, and secure strength.

*(4.30.) MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said he wished to address a question to the Attorney General. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire pointed out very clearly to this House the constitutional position of the Church of England, and what Churchmen were concerned with was not the Roman Catholic Church or the Wesleyan body, but they were deeply concerned for the national Church. He wished to ask whether under this Section there would be any appeal from the bishop in each diocese in respect of what was and what was not a reference under the trust deed.

*MR. SPEAKER: That point hardly arises under this Amendment. It has nothing to do with the control of the bishop.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he could only say on this Amendment that he thought that they must all rejoice that although, somewhat tardily, the intrinsic rights of the laity had been vindicated in this House, the position taken up by the Prime Minister having certainly been a surprise to a great many. The acceptance of that now famous institution the Kenyon-Slaney Clause would give to all who had the best interests of the Church of England at heart the most lively satisfaction. He did not desire to pursue this subject further on the present Amendment, which covered a much wider ground than he had anticipated, and he would reserve the other remarks he had to make for the Amendment dealing with the Bishop's appeal.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 5, line 10, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 5, line 10, after 'managers,' insert 'provided that nothing in this sub-Section shall affect any provision in a trust deed for reference to the bishop or superior ecclesiastical or other denominational authority so far as such provision gives to the bishop or authority the power of deciding whether the character of the religious instruction is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.'"

The next Amendment read a second time.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether he would be in order in proposing, as a consequential Amendment, in consequence of the alteration made by the House of Lords, after the word "shall" in line 10, to insert the words "subject to."

*MR. SPEAKER: The only thing that is material to look at now is the Lords' Amendment. On consideration of the Lords' Amendments no Amendment can be moved to the Bill itself unless it be a purely consequential Amendment upon an Amendment of the Lords.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that with great deference he submitted that it had not been unusual when a very large and wide change had been made in a Clause to enable it to be amended.

*MR. SPEAKER: Not only is it unusual, but it is unprecedented to allow it to be done unless it can be done as consequential upon the Lords' Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY pointed out that the Lords' Amendment had resulted in the striking out of the words "the tenour of." Those were the enabling words of the provision, and, therefore, he submitted that that enabled him to engraft an Amendment thereon.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is merely a drafting Amendment.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he wished to ask the Attorney General, in reference to a trust deed such as was contemplated by the sub-Section, whether there would be any appeal from the decision of the Bishop so long as he was acting in a *bonâ fide* character?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness, Burghs): No, Sir; there will be no appeal, unless it is given in the trust deed. If the trust deed refers it to the Bishop, his decision will be final; if it provides for a further appeal, of course it will be different.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR thought it was best to have the position put clearly before the House, so far as the general character of the trust deeds was concerned, and the position of the various ecclesiastical authorities. The Amendment he moved was a discriminating Amendment as regarded the Church of England; it had no reference whatever to the Wesleyan body, or to the Roman Catholic body; and he thought he could show the House why it was necessary that, as regarded the National Church, it should be inserted, and why, as regarded other denominations which were outside the purview of the State, there was no need for any such safeguard. It was a matter of perfect indifference whether the Roman Catholic teaching given in a Roman Catholic school was in accordance with the fifth Council of Lateran, the Council of Trent, or the Vatican Council. These were matters in which they, as an integral part of Parliament, were not concerned; but he thought that that House, as an integral part of Parliament, and as representing the laity in the Church, were deeply concerned in the maintenance of the Protestant character of the doctrines of the Church of England. He did not know whether the hon. and gallant Member for Newport realised that under this Section practically what was being done in the schools for the first time was sanctioning by statute an appeal to a purely ecclesiastical authority of the Church of England, viz., the bishop in each diocese. And what was the nature of that appeal? It was as to whether or not certain teaching was or was not in accordance with the standard of the Church of England. To him this seemed a most extraordinary position. They had heard a great deal from the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich and the Prime Minister about the rights of the laity of the Church of England, and no one, he was sure, welcomed more heartily than he did the vindication of those rights drawn from the Prime Minister in such unfaltering accents. It might be certainly a little late in the day, seeing the mischief that had already occurred in the Church of England by the unrestricted action of the clergy, but better late than never. Still, in applying that remedy, let them be careful they were not making the position, as regarded the Church of England in these matters of doctrine, more difficult in the future than it had been in the past. It seemed to him a monstrous thing that, by statute, they were to give to each Bishop in his own diocese the absolute right to decide what was or what was not the doctrine of the Church of England.

LORD HUGH CECIL: Where the trust deed so provided.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said trust deeds were now being drawn, complying with the provisions of the Bill in such a way as to comprehend a final appeal to the episcopal authority. If that was the position, what were really the circumstances under which they found themselves? They had had an interesting discussion between the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich and the Prime Minister upon the real character of these elementary schools, in which religious teaching, mainly the teaching of the Church of England, was to be given, and while the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich insisted that these were Church schools, and that in them the authorised officers of the

Church had alone the right to give religious instruction, the Prime Minister reiterated his opinion that they were an annexe of the family, in the sense that the children of the poor must go to these schools to receive that religious instruction which, in the wealthy ranks, was given in the home. He would, with great respect, venture another definition of those schools as the meeting place of State and Church in that most solemn and tender of all relationships, the religious and secular education of those millions of tender plants in whom the promise and potency of this country really lay. If these schools, as he believed them to be, were the meeting-place of Church and State in the giving of religious and secular instruction, why should the reference as to what was or was not the doctrine of the Established Church be by statute conferred on a single ecclesiastic in each diocese? They had never had by statute such an arrangement contemplated. What were they to expect as the result of such an arrangement? Reference had been made by the hon. Member opposite to the Bishop of Liverpool. He certainly yielded to no one in his admiration for that Prelate in the firm stand he was taking—a stand not narrower than the Church of England, and no wider—in refusing to admit the introduction of practices and ceremonies which at the time of the Reformation were thought to be finally abandoned by the National Church. If that was his line, what was the line of the Bishop of Lincoln, the Bishop of Rochester, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of Exeter, the Bishop of London, and other Prelates? He should anticipate with some amusement the different definitions of the Anglican doctrine which would emanate from those worthy Prelates in their respective dioceses. It was nearly sixty years since the beginning of that movement in the Church of England, of which today they were gathering the first fruits in the determination of that House to put a period to the movement, not in the churches, but in the schools, so far as in them lay. The extraordinary part of the thing was that while the appeal in the churches was to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the appeal in the case of the schools—quite as important, surely—was to be made in a grotesque fashion to each Bishop in his diocese, to decide according to his own ideas what was or was not the doctrine of the Anglican Church. No superior authority was imposed to bring them into uniformity. No appeal was given by which aggrieved managers—and they might have aggrieved managers other than clerical—could carry the matter further. They would have to carry out in each diocese whatever might be the predilections or idiosyncrasies of the Bishop, who would give to his decision the theological tinge which he happened to possess. He had in his hand the opinion the Attorney General delivered on 27th November on this Clause. Before the Bill went to the House of Lords there was a slight obscurity surrounding this Clause, which had been dissipated by putting it in another form. The hon. and learned Gentleman said he read the Clause as not interfering in the slightest degree with the functions of any ecclesiastical authority to determine what the doctrine was of the Church with which the school was associated, and if the question arose as to whether a particular doctrine was the doctrine of the Church of England, and if the trust deed provided for the decision of that by the Bishop, his decision would be obtained and it would be the duty of the managers loyally to carry out the decision of the authority provided by the trust deed of which they were the administrators. He hoped that before this sub-Section finally left the House, words such as he had indicated would be inserted so as to secure that each Bishop in his own diocese, in giving a decision in this matter, would have respect to the general ecclesiastical law of the Church of England. If they had no security of that kind, he ventured to say that the position in the various dioceses of this country would be a grotesque nullification of the benefits with which that Clause was supposed to be charged. The managers were to administer the dose which the Bishop was to prescribe, and in each diocese no doubt each Bishop would have his own idea of what that dose was to be, and what was or was not Anglican doctrine. He was speaking not only for today but for the future, and not only for the schools but for the future of the national Church of this country. They had had an extensive discussion today travelling over the whole field of Church polity and of those excesses which had marred her work and brought into discredit a considerable section of the clergy. He did not wish to follow in the wake of that discussion, but he thought the House ought not to shut its eyes to the possibility of the situation that the day would come when the question of reform in the Church of England must be considered unless, indeed, Parliament was driven to a solution which would involve the cutting of the knot which today bound Church and State together. He was one of those who did not wish to see the day come when that question of the dissolution of partnership would have to be considered, but he did wish, when constructive legislation such as was indicated by the hon. Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire took place, both in the church as well as in the school, that the House should consider how far it would be prejudicing a settlement upon the supreme question of what was or what was not the doctrine of the Church of England, by allowing a different authority and a different standard to be set up today in Anglican schools to what was the constitutional authority for deciding disputes in the Anglican Church. These disputes had been active and acute to an extraordinary degree, and he only wanted to say that, while he did not desire for one minute to narrow the position of the Church of England, with those who desired to upset her adherence to Reformation standards, he wished for no truce, and would make no terms. He would apply in all its severity the old Spanish proverb—

"The war is not over as long as my enemy lives."

Mr. T. M. HEALY: A nice religious spirit.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he held his convictions as dearly as the hon. Member held his with regard to his own Church, and it ill-became such an exemplar of courtesy and charity as the hon. Member for North Louth to fall foul of any man for exhibiting a spirit which possibly, for the moment, might have been intolerant and outside the limits of debate in this House. He desired to urge upon the House the absolute necessity of clearing up this point before they finally dismissed the Clause. He must press his Amendment, not because he wished to cast a slur upon the Bishops of the Church of England, but because he desired them to understand clearly from this House what it was they expected them to do, and that in giving their various decisions in the different dioceses they should respect the general ecclesiastical law of the country—the law which had been defined in the past by the supreme tribunal of law and order and which might be defined with equal exactitude in the future. He moved to add to the Lords Amendment:—

Amendment proposed to the Lords' Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words, 'But where any such decision is given by a bishop or other superior ecclesiastical authority of the Church of England, the decision shall be in accordance with the law as declared by the courts having jurisdiction in matters ecclesiastical."—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be added to the Lords' Amendment."

(5.0.) Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he did not think it necessary to follow his hon. friend into all the topics upon which he had dilated with so much ability and earnestness. He felt that his hon. friend had a little exaggerated the scope of this Clause when he spoke of it as for the first time giving statutory recognition of an appeal on the doctrine of the Church of England to the Bishops. It did not create any such tribunal. The only effect was that where a trust deed provided for a reference of any matter in dispute to an ecclesiastical authority, the trust deed should not be interfered with by the provisions of the Clause. He thought the House would agree that there might be great convenience in a provision of that kind. His hon. friend's Amendment was confined to one of the many churches that might be affected by this Clause; it was confined to the Church of England only; and the hon. Member appeared to be under some misconception of the provisions of the Clause upon which he proposed to engraft his Amendment. The reference to the Bishop, or other authority, was to be on the question whether the character of the instruction was, or was not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed, and the Amendment was inapplicable to the Clause. If the trust deed provided that the teaching was to be in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England, then the Bishop would, of course, in the exercise of the authority given by the trust deed, decide if the requirements of the trust deed were adhered to as to the nature and character of the religious teaching. That would be the only question with which the Bishop would be competent to deal. His hon. friend proposed to say by his Amendment that the decision of the Bishop should be in accordance with the law as declared by the courts having jurisdiction in matters ecclesiastical; but how did the hon. Member propose to enforce that? What was the use of a *brutum fulmen* of that sort? If the school was intended to teach the doctrines of the Church of England, of course it would be for the Bishop to decide what the doctrines were; but what was the use of saying to the Bishop that he should do his duty? To have any effect, the matter would have to go further; there would have to be an appeal from the Bishop to some higher authority; but his hon. friend had not proposed that in his Amendment, and for the best of reasons. What was wanted was a ready decision which would be defeated if an appeal to a higher court were permissible.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: With great deference to the hon. and learned Gentleman who has just spoken, I think he has missed that which is the really governing fact of the whole of this case. The right hon. and learned Gentleman says that this is not the introduction of the Bishop for the first time, because the Bishop is already acknowledged in the trust deed to be the proper authority to settle the doctrine to be taught in the schools in conformity with the doctrine of the Church of England in all respects. But the trust deed, so long as it governs the conduct of the school, which after all (although it receives Government assistance) is a private school, in order to carry out the desire for religious education, and other education, according to the ideas of the subscribers who have set it up. But that is a very different thing now. The same school is supported out of the public funds and by the rates, and when it comes to stand on the same footing, practically as the church itself—I do not mean the church with the big "C," but the church with the small "c," *i.e.* the church of the parish—let the House consider for a moment, how extraordinary would be the state of things that would be created by this Clause if passed as it at present stands. Suppose a certain parishoner is aggrieved at the doctrine which he hears taught in the church—he himself being a member of the Communion of the Church of England and attending the administrations of the incumbent. He hears a certain doctrine preached which he thinks is not in conformity with the principles of the Church of England. Then we provide him with a certain means of obtaining redress. We say "You will have an appeal to a certain authority instituted by Parliament for the purpose. He has an efficient remedy, though I admit it is slow and costly. But the same man finds that his child is being taught the same doctrine in the school, and his only remedy there is an appeal to the Bishop, and the Bishop's decision is final. The two cases seem to me, by the legislation of this year, to be brought into parallel relation with each other; and yet we deal with one in an entirely different way from that in which we deal with the other. What reason is there that this matter should be left to the decision of the individual Bishop? One Bishop may differ from another in his views and opinions, and you might have one kind of teaching in one diocese differing from that given in another diocese. When a Bishop was translated from one diocese to another he might find that the decisions of his predecessor in regard to the doctrine of the Church of England were entirely contrary to his own views. You will thus have a state of confusion. These may be on very small points, but when taken *in globo—en masse*—they would lead to a very serious state of affairs. Why is one kind of doctrine to be ministered to the lambs and another to the sheep? I do not see any reason for it. I do not think it is any answer to the hon. Member opposite for the Attorney General to say—"You have proposed this Amendment, but you have not provided the machinery for enforcing it." Of course the hon. Member has not provided the machinery; and I should not be surprised if the hon. Gentleman did not consider himself competent to do so. It may require a great deal of thought to provide a proper court of appeal: but there should be some appeal as to the doctrine taught in the school, just as there was an appeal to the highest Court in the realm as to the doctrine taught in the Church. To say that we should leave the decision as to the doctrine taught in the school entirely to the Bishop, means that one decision may be given by one Bishop, and another decision by another Bishop. But surely it goes more closely to a man's heart to hear erroneous doctrine taught to his child than to himself. If he is well enough informed, and cares enough about the subject, he can, at least, defend himself against it; but in the case of the child there is not, under this Amendment, that safeguard. And therefore there is, in the child's case, a higher claim to some appeal than the mere *ipse dixit* of a Bishop than in the case of the father himself. I accordingly think that the words the hon. Gentleman proposes are absolutely necessary to bring this matter of the school into the same position as the Church now is in, and in order to obtain that order and regularity in the doctrines and practices of the Church and in the school which ought to prevail so long as the Church of England is to retain its connection with the State.

Colonel PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) said he thought this was a most important point, and ought to have been foreseen and provided for by the promoters of the Bill. The Church of England was the Church of England by law established. The Roman Catholic Church was not by law established, and none of the Free Churches were Churches by law established. But the Church of England was by law established with the King at its head, and all matters pertaining to its doctrine and discipline were referable to and decided by the Privy Council. Now, by this Clause it was stated that any Bishop of the Church of England had in his diocese absolute power to decide what was the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England. How could a trust deed be legal if it over-rode the ecclesiastical law of England? In this case they should be doing an exceedingly injudicious, perilous and dangerous thing if they passed this Clause without the Amendment proposed. He should have thought that an Amendment of this sort would have been at once adopted by the Government. If a Clause of this kind were passed he believed it would be unconstitutional, and it would be a Precedent which would be very dangerous at some time or another to the Church of England if that Church was going to remain paramount in the land. He was not a lawyer; but when he heard the speech of the Attorney General, he was astonished that he should have allowed a thing like this to go through without providing a safeguard. That was an extraordinary thing to him as a layman, and as an Englishman. He appealed to the Government to put this matter right. Where would they be unless it were provided that the matter should not go through without the safeguards that his hon. friend had asked for? He should certainly vote for the Amendment. No member of the House of Commons, no Member of the Church of England, no Englishman, ought to be so foolish or so unpatriotic as not to vote for the Amendment of his hon. friend. Unless the Lords' Amendment were amended he should vote against it.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT said they ought to have the views of the Government on this matter. The Attorney General had given only a legal opinion on the Amendment. The question was, were they going to make the Bishop the one clerical personage who was, in point of fact, to overrule the lay managers? Was that the intention of the Government? The decision of the Bishop would govern all the elementary schools in the diocese. Then, as the hon. Member who moved the Amendment very properly said, each of the Bishops would give a different decision. The point was to ascertain what were the doctrines of the Church of England; and for that they ought to go to one single authority not to twenty or thirty authorities all differing from each other. That was not the way to get at the doctrines of the Church of England. What had happened during the last few years? One Bishop insisted on a clergyman leaving his diocese on account of his being disloyal to the doctrines of the Church of England; but he was immediately instituted into a living in another diocese. That had happened in two most flagrant cases. What was the use of leaving it to individual Bishops to determine what were the doctrines of the Church of England when they had not the authority to do that with reference to the ministers of the Church itself. In his opinion the effect of the Amendment put in in the Lords would be to destroy denominational education altogether; because they would have the spectacle of a number of Bishops, each on his authority determining the doctrines of the Church of England in different directions. It seemed to him to be a most injurious proposal; and one which would introduce chaos into the denominational system.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he thought the Amendment before them mainly concerned the Church of England and the question of the orthodoxy of that Church. But this was a matter which also concerned the Imperial Parliament. This was not the Parliament of the Church of England. It consisted of Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and Atheists, and although, of course, it was true that the Church of England was by law established, at the same time, every hon. member of every other Church must have a similar concern for the orthodoxy of his Church as the hon. Member for East Toxteth had for the teaching of the orthodoxy of the Church of England. He understood that the hon. Member's opinion was that if the lay managers, consisting of the farmers or grocers of the district, were dissatisfied with the Bishop's appeal there should be a further reference to the judges of the Divorce Court, which finally settled all these questions in regard to the Church of England. Today it was Lord Cowley and Sir Charles Hartopp, to morrow the doctrines of the Church of England. He was not immediately concerned, but he should like to ask whether he should be in order in moving after the words "affecting the Church of England" the words "and in the case of the Roman Catholic Church in accordance with the decisions of His Holiness the Pope." That was the logical result of having an Imperial Parliament to consider questions affecting the religion to which he belonged

COLONEL PILKINGTON: On a point of Order, I wish to point out that the Church of Rome and the Free Churches are not under the Crown.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of Order.

MR. T. M. HEALY said hon. Gentlemen opposite seemed to forget that this was an Imperial Parliament, and he had as much right as a Catholic to safeguard the interests of his Church as the hon. Member for the East Toxteth Division had to safeguard the teaching of the Church of England. Why was he to be denied, if he had any apprehensions on this subject of religious teaching, the right to see that in the ultimate result he got the quintessence of orthodoxy, just as the hon. Member sought to get it through the Divorce Court?

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he must interrupt the hon. Member who had just credited him with delusions which he did not possess. He had never even imagined an appeal to the Divorce Court. The appeal he desired was to the Superior Ecclesiastical Courts of England, which could not benefit the Church of Rome, which had no connection with the State whatever in its capacity as a Crown institution similar to that which the Church of England had.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he always thought that religion was a divine institution, and not a Crown institution, and it was under that delusion that he proposed his Amendment, and then as all these bodies necessarily desired orthodoxy, the Jews could have a reference to the Chief Rabbi, and the Nonconformists—say to Mr. Perks. It was only when the hon. Member for East Toxteth contemplated the result of his own Amendment that he would begin to discover its absurdity. He was sorry the hon. Gentleman had accused him of a desire to show some want of courtesy upon this question, but he assured the hon. Member that they took as deep an interest in proposals which affected the Church of England as perhaps the hon. Member did in regard to the Church of Rome. What appeared to him to be the view of some of those representing the Church of England was that they wanted endowed nonconformity in the Church of England; and, therefore the position taken up by the Nonconformists seemed to him to be much more logical, because they were willing to part with all the advantages which belonged to the Church of England in order to assert their right of private judgment, which he thought was a much more honourable position. He wished to know if he should be in order in moving his Amendment.

*MR. SPEAKER said he did not know whether the hon. Member was serious in asking that question. His proposal would not be relevant, having regard to the first words of the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Then I bow to your ruling Mr. Speaker.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that, with the best intention in the world, they could not at this stage travel over the whole field of ecclesiastical controversy. He ventured to think that this was hardly a proper occasion in which to deal with the matter; and he would, therefore, suggest that a division be now taken.

(5.28) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 93; Noes, 215 (Division List No. 642).

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bignold, Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hoult, Joseph
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridge
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Toulmin, George
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Austin Taylor and
Colonel Pilkington.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)

Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. AllenBenjamin
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,Capt. H.F.(Middlesex)
Bowles,T.Gibson(King'sLynn)
Brassey, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHnJ.A.(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox,Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington,Rt. Hon.Sir JohnE.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliam Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants,W.)
Fellowes,Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn SirJ.(Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary (St.Albans)
Gilhooly, James
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,Henry D.(Shrewsbury)
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse,RtHnH.(Somers't,E
Howard,John(Kent,Faversh'm
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky,RtHon.WilliamEdw.H.
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockie, John
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Maconochie, A. W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E(Wigt'n
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D (Strand)
Stanley,EdwardJas.(Somerset)
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thompson,Dr.EC(Monagh'n,N
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Welby,Lt-ColA.C.E.(Taunton
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Whiteley,H.(Ashtonund.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson,Fred.W.(Norfolk,Mid.
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

(5.48) Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 229; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 643).

AYES

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants. W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (M'dd'x
Hammond, John
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (Somerset, E
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockie, John
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Macartney, Rt Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Maconochie, A. W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo North)
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thompson, Dr E C (Monagh'n, N
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount

- Welby,Lt.-Col.A.CE(Taunton
- White, Patrick (Meath, North
- Whiteley,H.(Ashton und.Lyne
- Whitmore, Charles Algernon
- Willox, Sir John Archibald
- Wilson,A. Stanley (York, E.R.
- Wortley,Rt. Hon.C. B. Stuart-
- Wrightson, Sir Thomas
- Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
- Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES

- Allen,Chas.P.(Glouc., Stroud)
- Asquith,Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
- Atherley-Jones, L.
- Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
- Brigg, John
- Broadhurst, Henry
- Brown, George M.(Edinburgh)
- Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
- Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
- Burns, John
- Caldwell, James
- Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
- Causton, Richard Knight
- Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
- Cremer, William Randal
- Crombie, John William
- Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
- Davies,M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
- Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
- Elibank, Master of
- Emmott, Alfred
- Evans,SirFrancisH(Maidstone
- Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
- Goddard, Daniel Ford
- Grant, Corrie
- Griffith, Ellis J.
- Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
- Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
- Hayne, Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
- Helme Norval Watson
- Holland, Sir William Henry
- Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
- Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
- Jacoby, James Alfred
- Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
- Langley, Batty
- Layland-Barratt, Francis
- Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
- Leigh, Sir Joseph
- Levy, Maurice
- Lloyd-George, David
- Lough, Thomas
- Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
- Markham, Arthur Basil
- Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
- Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
- Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
- Norton, Capt. Cecil William
- Nussey, Thomas Willans
- Partington, Oswald
- Perks, Robert William
- Philipps, John Wynford
- Pilkington,Lieut.-Col.Richard
- Rea, Russell
- Reid,Sir R.Threshie(Dumfries
- Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
- Robertson. Edmund (Dundee)
- Roe, Sir Thomas
- Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
- Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
- Shipman, Dr. John G.
- Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
- Soames, Arthur Wellesley
- Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R(Northants
- Strachey, Sir Edward
- Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
- Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
- Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gower
- Toulmin, George
- Walton,John Lawson(Leeds,S.
- Walton, Joseph Barnsley
- Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
- Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
- Weir, James Galloway
- Whiteley, George (York,W,R.)
- Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
- Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
- Wilson,Fred.W.(Norfolk.Mid.
- Wilson, Henry J. (York,W.R.)
- Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
- Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Hudd'rsf'd
- Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr.HerbertGladstoneand Mr. William M'Arthur

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 5, line 32, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

> "In page 5, line 32, after 'section,' insert as a new sub-Section, 'Any transfer of a public elementary school to or from a local education authority shall for the purposes of this Section be treated as the provision of a new school.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time—

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen S.) thought the Amendment open to great objections. While reserving his right to take exception to the sub-Section afterwards, he desired now to call attention to a matter of drafting. The Transfer Clause of the Act of 1870 was not repealed by the Bill, and therefore *prima facie* remained in force. The terms of the Amendment, however, seemed to imply that the procedure of the present Bill was to be substituted for that of the Act of 1870, and that consequently the latter was to be passively repealed. The question ought to be settled distinctly one way or the other, and he moved to insert after "section," in the second line, "and subject to the provisions of Section 24 of The Elementary Education Act, 1870."

Amendment proposed to the Lords' Amendment—

> "After the word 'section,' to insert the words 'and subject to the provisions of Section 24 of The Elementary Education Act, 1870.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Lords Amendment."

The SECRETARY of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir William Anson), who was almost inaudible in the Press Gallery, was understood to say that the words were unnecessary. There was no idea of repealing Section 24 of the Act of 1870.

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) thought the matter ought to be made quite clear, as it was very desirable that the Councils at starting should not be involved in a great mass of legal uncertainty.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said the words of the proposed Amendment would give rise to infinitely more doubt and difficulty than the sub-Section as it stood.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) understood his right hon. friend's fear to be that unless the Amendment were made the regulations with regard to transfer would override and millify the provisions of Section 24 of the Act of 1870.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) suggested the addition of the words "but nothing in this provision shall authorise the Bishops." If any doubt existed, he thought those words would remove it.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the hon. Member would not press his Amendment, because the words of the Clause were quite clear as they stood, and he desired that the Amendments should not be multiplied.

Proposed Amendment to the Lords' Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE said this was an important Amendment. He did not desire to take up time unnecessarily by dwelling upon the machinery contained in Sections 8 and 9. Section 29 contained elaborate provisions for the publication of notices, and what he objected to was the great delay that would ensue in consequence. Those provisions would involve an enormous amount of unnecessary work, and, as this matter was fully discussed in this House, he should have thought that what was good enough for the House of Commons ought to have satisfied those who sat in another place. He hoped the Government would not insist upon this House adhering to the Lords' Amendment upon this point. They might fairly anticipate that this was a matter which the House of Lords would not attach any very great importance to.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) submitted that the cases of a new school and that of transferring an existing school were essentially different. In the case of a new school there might be a need for the statutory precautions; but in the case of an existing school no hindrance should be placed in the way of its cheap and rapid transfer to the local authority. This was a mere transfer of a school with its scholars, and it seemed to him that the view taken by the Government originally, as opposed to the view taken in the other House, was much more correct and far more adapted to the circumstances. So far from introducing obstacles, they ought to provide the utmost facility for the transfer of schools in either one direction or the other, and unless they adopted that course, they would in the end be placed in a position most disadvantageous to the education of the nation, always, in his expressed opinion, a matter of vital importance, and an opinion which had been confirmed by his recent observation and experience in America, compared with which we were many years behindhand in public education.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said that this Amendment applied cumbrous machinery to the transfer of schools in both directions, whether from the private owners to public authorities or from the public authorities to private managers. Suppose the transfer was to take place from a private owner or a railway company. He was considering the case of the purely denominational school. Why should not those private owners or public companies be allowed to transfer their schools, which had been erected in a sense with public money? Why should they not be allowed to transfer their schools without this period of three months in which they would be liable to receive all these complaints from all quarters? The Government were doing all they possibly could in the interests of denominational schools. The machinery which was now proposed was far too cumbrous, and they ought to oppose it and endeavour to make it as easy as they possibly could for those public-spirited owners to transfer their schools, Sir WILLIAM ANSON said the Amendment only made perfectly clear what had been said over and over again in the House—namely, that when a school changed its character it came under the operation of Clauses 8 and 9.

Sir CHARLES DILKE asked if it would not be better from the Government point of view to leave this proposal out altogether.

Mr. BRYCE said he never understood that Clause 8 was meant to apply to these cases of transfers. They had always taken the words "new public elementary school" not to apply to the changes in the character of existing schools, but to the creation of a new school altogether, and consequently they were greatly surprised at the introduction of this Amendment. His hon. friend was under a complete misapprehension if he thought that they ever took Clause 8 in that sense. He thought this proposition would add very much to the expense which would be incurred by local authorities if they were obliged to go through all this process, and it would render it far more difficult to make private bargains. In the interests of the economy of the rates, it was very much to be deprecated that this Amendment had been introduced. In the interests of the rates he objected to this elaborate machinery being brought into play in the case of the transfer of an existing school.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said the Prime Minister had long ago made it perfectly clear to the House that Clauses 8 and 9 would apply to the transfer of existing schools as well as of new schools. The proposal here was to make it clear that such a transfer would, as in the case of the expiration of a lease, fall under the operation of this Clause.

Sir JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said he recollected that the Prime Minister made a statement that when once a school had been transferred to the public authority it was never to return to private management. He ventured with great respect to submit his recollection of that statement to the Attorney General, who had spoken of his own recollection of what the Prime Minister said. This Amendment, when made on the Bill in another place, came upon him as a matter of great surprise, and he believed that surprise was shared by many hon. Members on this side of the House. He appealed to the hon. and learned Gentleman to consider whether it would not be in the interest of this part of the Bill not to press the Amendment. It could not pass without a division, because they felt a little sore about it. It was thoroughly understood that this was not to apply to transfers, and therefore they were bound to oppose the Amendments.

Mr. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) said he was a little surprised at the opposition which was being offered to this Amendment. There were many cases where the voluntary schools were at present leased from the local authority, and where the lease would expire in the course of a year or two. It was perfectly possible for the Board of Education to declare the school unnecessary; the school would not then be run as a voluntary school. The managers might get the building and the plant back, but they could not run it again as a voluntary school. He should have thought that hon. Members opposite would have considered it to their interest to support the Amendment. To his mind the Clause made for the diminution of those small, unnecessary, and very often denominational schools.

Dr. MACNAMARA said the machinery here proposed was cumbrous. The great bulk of the cases would be transfers of voluntary schools to the local authority. In that event what would happen would be that the local authority would first of all give notice to the managers of any other school in the district. Those managers could appeal, or any ten ratepayers could appeal, to the Board of Education. The result would be almost interminable delay before the transfer could take place. Under the present system a transfer could be effected promptly within a few days, but under the machinery now proposed it might take twelve or eighteen months, or even two years. It would involve great expense and deprive the children in many cases of the opportunity of getting proper education.

(6 23.) Question put.

The House divided: — Ayes, 224; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 644).

AYES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Agg Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHonJA(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley-
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hammond, John
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, RtHnH(Somerset,E
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn. W.G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W.F.
Maxwell, RtHnSirH.E.(Wigt'n
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, RtHn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O Kelly, James (Roscommon N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Maj. J. E. B (Isle of Wight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. HnJ. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E (Taunton
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, H (Ashton-und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Kearley, Hudson E.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thamas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Thompson, Dr. E C (Monagh'n, N
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Toulmin, George
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wrrner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Yoxall and Sir John Brunner.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 5, line 39, leave out 'already,' and insert 'for the time being.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON said that the words "for the time being" were in the original Bill, and "already" had been substituted for them. Why had the Clause been altered again to its original form?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said that the purpose was to make it quite clear what the meaning of the Clause was. "For the time being" referred to the moment at which the question arose, not to the passing of the Act.

Question, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment," put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 9, lines 10 and 11, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 9, lines 10 and 11, leave out 'they continue to charge fees,' and insert 'fees continue to be charged.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson*).

Mr. BRYCE said that this Amendment might be of very great importance according to the interpretation put upon it. If it meant merely a simple change of phrase, then, of course, no one could object to it; but if it meant that the power of charging fees, which was given by the Bill as it left this House to the local authority, was to be transferred to the managers with the consent of the Board of Education, then the objection to that was very strong. He could hardly believe that that was the meaning of the Government, for they had repeatedly assured the Committee that the local authority would have complete control of finance.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that there was not the slightest intention to alter the power of the local authority in regard to charging fees. The substituted words were only meant to make the power more general.

Dr. MACNAMARA said that that explanation might be satisfactory; but he must say that the original words were far preferable, because the unrepealed Clause in the Act of 1891, which empowered the Board of Education to regulate the charging of fees, might be held to override the words in the altered form, and to give the Board of Education power to impose fees or modify them, without reference to the local education authority at all. The rights of the local authority, unless clearly stated in this Clause, might also be affected by the Code recently introduced by the Board of Education in regard to night schools, which insisted that fees should be charged.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON said that the House ought to have some assurance, or explanation from the Attorney General as to the power of the educational authority to fix or to abolish fees in regard to these schools. He understood that the education authority would have the power in regard to secular instruction, but the destination of the fees might not necessarily be for secular instruction; they might go to other objects, such as repairs, which the education authority would not administer. It seemed to him that if it was not made clear in the Bill that the power to charge fees was taken from the managers, and rested in the local education authority, the presumption would be, if the Lords Amendment were accepted, that that power remained in the hands of the managers.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought the suspicions of hon. Members had very slender foundation and were leading them into unnecessary refinements of drafting. The whole object of the Lords' Amendment was to make the meaning clear, in which apparently it had not been successful. With that object in view he would consent to alterations, leaving out the word "fees" and inserting "they;" and after "continue" inserting the words "to allow fees."

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords' Amendment amended—

"By leaving out in the words to be inserted the word 'fees,' and inserting the word 'they,' and by inserting, after the word 'continue,' the words 'to allow fees.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Lords' Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 10, line 16, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In line 16, after 'nomination' to insert 'or recommendation.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.), said that after the answer which had been given to him by the Secretary to the Board of Education during the afternoon, the hon. Gentleman would not be surprised if he asked for an explanation of this Amendment. He wished to know how they stood now in regard to it. There was considerable discussion in Committee as to the meaning of the word "nomination." Originally it had one meaning attached to it in this House; and another meaning was afterwards attached to it by the President of the Board of Education in another place. He wished to know whether, when a body was nominated, the County Council would have the right of rejection or not. He also wished to know what distinction was drawn between "nomination" and "recommendation." The whole question was somewhat complicated by the words in the proviso "where it appears desirable;" and he appealed to his hon. friend to throw a little more light on it. His hon. friend, in reply to a hypothetical question, said that it was time enough to consider the solution of problems when they arose; but these problems would arise in the very immediate future, as the local authorities would have to consider within the next month or two what kind of scheme they would send up for confirmation. Surely, it would save the local authorities trouble, and the hon. Gentleman himself trouble, if the local authorities were given some information as to the views of the Board of Education on these very doubtful words. If the hon. Gentleman could not answer now, would he before the end of the year send out circulars to the county authorities explaining the views of the Board?

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that from the very beginning of the Bill, he had called attention to the way in which the local authorities had been treated. He believed that any County Council worth its salt would resent the attempt to put on their committees men whom they did not wish to have. If the Government wished their plan to work, they should treat the County Councils in a very different manner.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said he was quite sure that the Borough Councils would object strongly to a nominative non-elective element being imposed upon them. The word "nomination" was ambiguous, and the addition of "recommended" established an alternative which gave additional force to the objectionable word "nomination."

(6.53.) SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that from experience, he had little hope that explanations from him would assist hon. Members in the solutions of conundrums they had themselves constructed. It seemed to him that no statement in these debates was so simple as not to call for explanation, and that every explanation seemed to darken counsel. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think some indignity was put upon County Councils, but, so far as his communications had gone, he had not discovered any disposition on the part of County Councils to receive in any but a favourable light the proposals in the Clause, and he believed they would endeavour by this means to constitute committees worthy of the position and adequate for the work. Appointment would be made by the Council, but if the Council invited some body within its area to make a nomination, such, for instance, as a University college, there might be some difficulty in rejecting the person nominated. Still, in many areas there would be bodies of such dignity that a Council would desire them to have representation, and would ask them to make a nomination, reserving the ultimate right of appointment. But there might be other bodies, associations, federations, or unions of various kinds, to whom the Councils might not think it necessary to send invitations to nominate, although it might be desirable to invite them to recommend, and recommendations would involve the Council in much lighter responsibility of acceptance or rejection. In fact the result might be arrived at by informal communications between the Councils and the bodies concerned. The Amendment was, he believed, an attempt to meet some of the difficulties which his right hon. friend had suggested on a previous occasion. He hoped the Amendment would be accepted.

MR. BRYCE said that the Secretary to the Board of Education began by observing that all the explanations given by the Government had only succeeded in darkening counsel. They might agree with that. He himself certainly recollected four or five cases where they had endeavoured to ascertain without result the meaning of new words which had been introduced. He understood the explanation of the Secretary to the Board of Education to be this, that where a scheme gave nomination to a body, the County Council was obliged to accept the person—that it had no choice in the matter.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: No, no. What I said was that the appointment is with the Council, but that, when the Council has asked a body of some dignity or position to nominate a person, it would be exceedingly difficult for them to reject the person nominated.

MR. BRYCE said that in that case, if the County Council could reject the person nominated, there was no difference between "nomination" and "recommendation." The idea of the Government apparently was that where there was a recommendation it could be refused without offence; but that where there was a nomination it would be an insult to refuse it. What would happen if the County Council continued to refuse the particular persons nominated? Must the Council, in the last resort, accept a person, however displeasing, because the word "nomination" conferred an absolute right on the nominating party? He should be obliged if the Government would explain that.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid) said he thought he understood this simple matter until he had heard the speech of the Secretary to the Board of Education. When the proviso was first introduced, it was agreed that it meant that every scheme proposed by a County Council was bound to provide for nomination by other bodies. In answer to an objection, the Government introduced the words "where it appears desirable." Therefore, it was now within the discretion of the County Council to decide whether its scheme should provide for nomination or not; but, where it did provide for nomination it was compulsory. If his view were correct, the word "recommendation" was very much better than "nomination;" and, in the circumstances, he thought the House would do well to agree with the Lords' Amendment.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) said he did not yet quite understand the position. Would the Secretary to the Board of Education say whether a County Council could of its own will nominate the bodies from whom it would receive representatives.

*MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise on this Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 10, line 17, after 'bodies,' insert 'including associations of voluntary schools.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said as the House had not sufficient time properly to discuss many important Amendments which remained to be considered, they would have to express their views on the Amendment now before the House by dividing against it. The Clause in the Bill was perfectly clear. He believed that some Roman Catholic Members of the House were under the impression that the Amendment was of some importance to them; but he submitted that the Roman Catholic Bishops would be brought in under the words "persons acquainted with the needs of the various kinds of schools in the area." The associations referred to in the Amendment were the diocesan associations. In a Parliamentary term they were created only by the grant to poor voluntary schools, and would cease to exist on the passing of the Bill; and in regard to them, he would only say that they had not carried out their work to the general satisfaction. Those who had experience of the working of those boards did not like them to be included in the nominating bodies under the Bill. They were happily extinguished by the Bill, and he would prefer their members to appear in a representative capacity, rather than as nominees of the boards. The Amendment was unnecessary, because the best of the members would be brought in under the words he had quoted; but the Amendment would increase the representation of these boards on the education committees, not by the county gentleman nor by the leading clergy, but by the secretaries of the boards against whom it was charged that they had not administered the grants to poor schools made by that House with that discretion and fairness which they should have expected of them.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said he regarded the inclusion of these words as good evidence of the partisanship which had been displayed both in the House of Lords and by the Government. He regarded the words as most objectionable from the point of view of the local authorities and of education, and as a direct invitation to that very religious strife and controversy which the Prime Minister had expressed his intention to avoid by some of the other provisions of the Bill. Moreover, the representatives of the voluntary schools would see that the provision of new schools would be in the direction of denominationalism and to the detriment of public schools. Why should the representatives of denominationalism be allowed to put a spoke in the wheel of public interest and public progress. He thought the Amendment was evidence of special favour, of which the Government ought to be ashamed. They had established on the management a permanent denominational majority of four to two; but, apparently, that was not enough; and the Amendment was introduced to still further secure the interests of the Voluntary schools. They had a majority of four to two on the Board of Managers, and surely that was sufficient protection for the interests of denominationalism.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) asked whether it was understood that the diocesan associations would have the right to nominate members upon the county governing committees, or whether it was in the option of the County Council to put such members on or not. In connection with the Intermediate Education Act in Wales, representatives of the Voluntary schools had been put on the local subcommittees, which afterwards elected representatives to the county governing bodies. There was no representation of diocesan associations. Would the County Council be able to secure the representation of Voluntary schools in a similar way, or would they be compelled by this Amendment to put on representatives of the diocesan boards? If the latter was the case, the provision as amended was more mischievous than in its original form.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said that, supposing a County Council framed a scheme which excluded the representation of diocesan associations, the Board of Education would apparently be able to alter the scheme. He thought the House ought to reject the Amendment. It was proposed to give a right to sectarian bodies to interfere in educational matters—a principle which was objectionable in all parts of education, and which was now being introduced for the first time in reference to secondary education.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR did not think the Amendment would have the effect which was apprehended. Referring to the two specific points which had been put to him, he said it was impossible for him to state what the Board of Education would do with regard to hypothetical schemes which were not yet before it. He was sure the Board, under the guidance of the President and the Parliamentary Secretary, would do its best to make these schemes really workable schemes for all classes of education carried on under the control of the local education authority. In reply to the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs, he said that there was nothing in this Amendment, or in the Bill as it now stood, making it obligatory that the schemes of local authorities should provide for the representation of the diocesan association or any other association. That was a point which would depend on the character of the scheme. There was nothing in the Amendment or the Bill to prevent the County Council suggesting another method of representing the interests of Voluntary schools, such as the method for which the hon. Gentleman had a preference based on the experience of Wales.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE remarked that all he said was that that was the method which had been pursued up to the present.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR understood the hon. Member to express a preference for it, but the point was immaterial. There was nothing in the Amendment to make it absolutely necessary that the education authority or the Education Department should adopt one plan rather than the other.

MR. BRYCE said it was not denied that this Amendment, taken in conjunction with the rest of the Bill, gave power to the Board of Education, against the will of Borough or County Councils to, provide for the representation of diocesan associations.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is not relevant to the Amendment.

MR. BRYCE maintained that it was relevant, because the associations were mentioned. Here was a specific direction singling out these voluntary associations, and wherever a specific direction of that kind was given in an Act of Parliament the Department which had to administer the Act had regard to that direction. His view was that in many cases the Board of Education would place, against the will of the County Council, representatives of voluntary associations on the committees. He would vote against the Amendment.

(7.28.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 204; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 645.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley-
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hon Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans- (T'r H'mlets
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hammond, John
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt Hon Walter (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East

Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, H. (Asht'n-und. Lyne
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES — Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Kearley, Hudson E.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Toulmin, George
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES— Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

It being after half-past Seven of the Clock, Further Consideration of the Lords' Amendment stood adjourned till the Evening Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Lords' Amendments further considered.

"In page 10, line 31, after 'council' insert 'otherwise than under Part III. of this Act.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

(9.0.) Lords' Amendment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE moved that the House should disagree with the Amendment. He said that the Amendment moved in Committee in the Commons, which the present Lords' Amendment destroyed, was agreed to by the Government. It was very unfortunate that it was struck out by the Lords, because it was of the utmost value that the assistance of the elementary teachers should be secured in the framing and working of the education schemes, and he was very glad that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education agreed with the Motion he now had to move.

Question, "That this House disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment," put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 11, lines 1 and 2, leave out 'and may, if they think fit, hold a public inquiry.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he could not understand why the Lords had made this Amendment, for the provision was inserted in the Bill after a long discussion. Was it not really desirable for the Board of Education to hold an inquiry?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON explained that the power to hold an inquiry was simply transferred from one Clause to another.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: If that is the case, I do not object.

Lords' Amendment agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 12, line 6, after 'expenditure' insert 'or rent.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is my duty to inform the House that this involves a breach of privilege. Sub-Section (*c*) of Section 19 permits County Councils to apportion capital expenditure among certain parishes. This Amendment proposes that they should be allowed to apportion, not only capital expenditure on provided schools, but rent. That is very much on the same principle as the apportionment of capital expenditure, and is, in fact, an addition to the expenditure, the incidence of which is affected. Therefore, I have to call the attention of the House to the fact that it is a breach of privilege.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he would move that the House should waive its privilege in this matter, which, after all, was a small one, and agree with the Lords. As the Bill stood, if the local authority had to build a school it could charge the cost and the instalments of repayment of the cost on the particular district which the school served. It seemed fair that where premises were hired by the local authority, the rent should be charged, like the instalments, on that particular area. The whole object of the Amendment was to include rent in the general term "expenditure."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said it was most extraordinary that the Secretary of the Board of Education in moving that the House should waive its privilege should give no explanation to the House of the circumstances under which this breach of privilege had occurred. He had spoken as if it were one of those cases in which the Lords' Amendment was necessary to fill some gap left by the House of Commons, and in which by universal consent the House had sometimes consented to waive its privilege. There was, so far as he knew, no precedent for its being done against opposition. He should at any rate be very much astonished if the Government could provide one. The extraordinary thing about this was that the Government were aware of the necessity, from their point of view, of this Amendment when the matter was before the House on an earlier occasion. It was down on the Amendment Paper at the Report stage, and, with several others, was ruled out of Order. The proper course for the Government, surely, was to recommit the Bill on this precise issue. There was no precedent whatever for a breach of privilege being thus wilfully committed by a Government. He did not propose to discuss the question of privilege at any length, because the House was exhausted by the theological discussion on which it was engaged during the afternoon, but he would remind hon. members that experience in the Colonies had demonstrated that they could not be too careful in insisting on the strict observance of precedents in these matters.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the observations of the right hon. Baronet were not made for the purpose of preventing the House from waiving its privileges on this occasion, but rather for the purpose of criticising the Government for not having recommitted the Bill on the Report stage. It might, perhaps, have been better to recommit the Bill on the Report stage, but he would recall to the House the difficulties under which that stage was carried through. He was not arguing whether the guillotine was a wise or an unwise proceeding; but it would have been felt as rather a hardship by Members who wished to discuss substantial Amendments on that occasion if the Government had gone through the elaborate process of recommitting the Bill in order to introduce this Amendment. On the question of waiving their privileges, he would remind the House that their privileges did not exist for the purpose of annoying the House of Commons. Their purpose was to keep the House of Lords in order. Why make this protest against doing what the House of Commons really wanted to do? This was to turn the privileges of the House into a positive disadvantage instead of an advantage. This Amendment would be an advantage to the local authority. In these circumstances he hoped that the House, remembering its ancient procedure in matters of this kind, would waive its technical privileges and would introduce an Amendment which was intended to further an object equally desired, as he believed, by both sides.

MR. BRYCE said there were two aspects of the question—merit and privilege. As regarded the former he felt rather strongly that it would be better for the Bill if the Amendment were rejected. The principle of the county charge was being departed from, to their great regret, and naturally they resisted the Amendment. There might be some alleviation afforded to the county ratepayers, but there would be no advantage conferred on the parish ratepayers, on whom the Amendment might impose a heavy charge. In his opinion they ought to extend their indulgence to the parish ratepayer rather than to the county ratepayer. The right hon. Gentleman had suggested that the time allotted for the Report stage was very limited, and that it was not possible to recommit the Bill. But the right hon. Gentleman had the guillotine, and he would remind him that there was a legal axiom that no man was entitled to take advantage of his own wrong. At any rate, there was time for recommittal on the Third Reading, which was exempt from the guillotine altogether, and hon. Members on that side fully expected that on that stage the Government would have recommitted the Bill in respect of that particular point. It would not have occupied much time, and there was no law of the Medes and Persians which compelled them to complete the Third Reading in a given time. As to the breach of privilege on the part of the Lords, the right hon. Gentleman had said that they existed for the benefit of the House. On that he differed with him, and he maintained that the privileges possessed by the House of Commons in this matter were introduced for the protection of the people, and hon. Members should be careful not to depart from these privileges more than was necessary. This particular privilege insured that when an alteration of this nature was made in a Bill, it should only be done in Committee and it secured two stages. It was therefore a rule of privilege of real value and substance. It was a mere subterfuge to insert in the House of Lords' Amendments which had been brought to the notice of the House of Commons and then to ask hon. Members to waive the proper method of considering them. He urged that the House was bound to insist on the recognition of its privilege, and on that ground he and his friends must oppose the Motion.

(9.22.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 646.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Charles Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Groves, James Grimble
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (Somers-t, E
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James

Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Leamy, Edmund
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn J G (Oxford Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Cremer, William Randal
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Rea, Russell
Reckett, Harold James
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Toulmin, George
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Causton and Mr. Robert Spencer.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 12, line 13, after 'loans,' insert 'or rent.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: You have not, Mr. Speaker, made the same statement in regard to this Amendment.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is obvious that the same remarks apply.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that this Amendment raised the same point of breach of privilege. There was no precedent for this case, where, on the Report stage of a Bill, the House was informed that certain financial Amendments were out of order. Instead of the Government taking the opportunity to put the Amendments in the Bill, when the debate would have been confined to the question, the course was adopted of inserting them in another place, it being known beforehand that this would be a breach of privilege.

MR. BRYCE said it would be understood that they repeated their protest upon this occasion, but he would not trouble the House with a division.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 12, line 28, after 'apply,' insert 'in lieu of the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, relating to accounts and audit.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Resolution.."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said this Amendment emphasised a provision in the Bill to which great exception was taken. There had been no opportunity of discussing this most important question because, on both occasions when the Bill was before the House this Clause had not been reached, and was closured. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board did receive a most influential and representative deputation upon this question, but he did not take the view of that deputation. He simply desired now to enter a strong protest against a claim being made which was at variance with municipal feeling throughout the whole of the country. He still believed the boroughs welcomed this Bill on the ground of its municipal principle, which was his own reason for supporting it in the interest of public education, in which we were lamentably behindhand, a condition which he hoped and believed through municipal authorities commanding, as they did, large resources, and marked by much enterprise, would redress, but this proposal was a non-municipal innovation. It had a precedent in the County Councils Act, but the County Council had a widely distributed area where a local audit might be a matter of difficulty, but in boroughs there was no such difficulty, and it was felt that this was only the thin end of the wedge in regard to the adoption of this principle. As far as municipal education was concerned, it was an innovation, and two audits by two different sets of auditors must create very considerable confusion. By this proposal there might be differences of principle and opinion arrising on these audits, and there might be a great expenditure of time and money on the part of the local authority and its officers. He thought this change would be a very distracting one in the interests of local self-government. While he did not propose to divide the House, he had been asked by municipal people belonging to all parties to enter an emphatic protest against a change to which there was great objection, and he asked the President of the Local Government Board for the most explicit assurance that it should not be carried further in municipal matters. They did not want their boroughs or schools Cockertonising.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that as the time at their disposal was of a very limited character, he only desired to say a few words in answer to this protest. The Government had adhered to the existing law with regard to audit for two reasons. There was a distinction between the expenditure under this Act and any other expenditure incurred by a municipal authority because more than half the sum would be received from the Imperial Exchequer. Again, Parliament had laid down the lines on which the money should be spent, and without a system of Government audit it would be impossible to tell whether the orders of Parliament were obeyed. The Government did not in any way prejudge the question of the audit of municipal accounts. It was perfectly true that the audit spoken of by his hon. friend was as good as the Government audit, but when they came to the question of the purpose for which money was spent the only audit which was efficient was the Government audit, because the Government auditor was the only auditor who could surcharge illegal expenditure. This was not a case of driving in the thin edge of the wedge at all. All they said was that these accounts were now subject to this audit because they were different from the ordinary municipal accounts, and for that reason they had thought it right to continue the system of audit now in existence, and not impose upon the corporations any system which applied to general accounts, but which was not equally applicable to education accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 14, line 12, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 14, line 12, leave out from the first 'Education' to the end of the sub-Section."

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

DR. MACNAMARA said that the effect of the Lords' Amendment was to exclude evening schools altogether from the definition. The original form of the Bill was thus returned to; and he preferred it to that introduced by the

Government on Report. There was much elementary work done in the night schools; and it would not be made higher education by being called so. But it was now clear that any local authority was at liberty to give elementary instruction in any evening school to any adult pupil.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear!

DR. MACNAMARA said that although this elementary education could be given to adults in evening continuation schools, it would have to be paid for out of the money which, under Clause 22, was to be used for higher education. That would be detrimental to higher education in the counties, where the rate for higher education would be limited to 2d. He thought that in administrative counties there would be a difficulty, for what would happen would be that in administrative counties the higher education money, which was limited, could be used for night school work, and he was afraid that this would be detrimental to higher education. Nevertheless he thought it was much better to go back to the original state of the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I quite admit that the Government in their wanderings, have, like Ulysses, returned to the place whence they originally started. We first accepted an Amendment that elementary education might be given. What is elementary education? The hon. Gentleman has been severe upon the definition of non-elementary education, which includes reading, writing, and arithmetic, but there may be corresponding criticism of what is called elementary education in the code, which, I think, includes everything up to fiddling and dancing. I have not verified the accomplishments, but it will be admitted that things are introduced into the Code which no one would describe as elementary. This proves that it is impossible to define elementary education so as to make it fit in with the ordinary usages of the English language, and therefore we must have some arbitrary element in the definition. Our first change was to use the word "elementary." That broke down because "elementary" does not really mean elementary in the ordinary sense of the word. We have tried in our second metamorphosis to substitute "reading, writing, and arithmetic." These are undoubtedly elementary, but then the Bill, as thus amended, is open to this objection which will be obvious to anybody when it is stated. You limit the elementary night schools and evening continuation schools in which reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught. Those can be paid for out of the unlimited elementary rate in the borough. In a non-county borough, which has a right to manage its own elementary education, but is under the county as regards secondary education, an evening continuation school in which alone reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught can be paid for out of the unlimited elementary education rate. But if one boy in that school wishes to be taught elementary geography for the purpose of passing an examination for the Post Office or some other place of that kind; if he wants to go beyond the narrowest limits of reading, writing, or arithmetic, and his wish is acceded to, the school at once becomes a higher school and cannot be paid for out of the borough elementary rate. When that boy leaves the school, it returns to its original position. That is a hopeless state of things; and when the whole subject came up for consideration in another place, the Government were for the second time driven out of the position they had taken up, and had no choice but to go back to our original plan of making the sharp, clear and necessarily arbitrary definition which now finds its place in the Bill. I am quite sure everybody will admit that administratively that is the convenient course to have adopted. The only question is, will it interfere with the successful prosecution of this invaluable educational work of the elementary continuation evening schools? Well, I think I may confidently say it will not. The hon. Gentleman has perfectly accurately repeated in substance certain answers I gave at Question time today, and from these answers the House will see that the whole of this important work can be carried on under the Bill, although it must be paid for out of the whisky money and out of the secondary education rate. The only question that remains is—will it be at too great a cost to that rate; will it throw such a heavy demand on that rate that there will not be a sufficient sum available for the purposes of secondary education in the larger and truer sense of the word. I think my answer to that will be conclusive. In the first place, the rate for secondary education is unlimited in the boroughs, and in the counties, though it is not indeed unlimited, it can be increased if necessary. Secondly, what is perhaps more to the purpose than either of those considerations, we have some experience of what this kind of work has cost. It has been largely developed in a large number of counties, I will not say to excess but on a liberal scale. The experience we have of this kind of work in the evening continuation schools shows that on the whole they are not expensive, and certainly that portion of evening continuation school work which is concerned with reading, writing, and arithmetic will impose a fractional burden upon the ratepayers and take a fractional part of the 2d. rate in the counties and of the secondary rate in the boroughs. In these circumstances, I think the House may feel that the Bill as it stands will in no wise interfere with the admirable work which is now being carried on, and will, I hope, be carried on with even greater efficiency in the future in evening secondary schools. I think the House will feel that, though the Government may be open to the charge of having been too easily persuaded in Committee to alter the original form of the Bill, in substance the intentions of both sides of the House in regard to this matter are adequately carried out by the Bill as amended in another place.

MR. BRYCE said he would not follow the right hon. Gentleman through his long wanderings, because there was not time now, the House having spent too much time on the religious controversy at the beginning of the Sitting. He only wanted to point out that although elementary education could be given in these schools, it could not be called elementary education. Before the Cockerton judgment, what was really secondary education was called elementary. Now they had reversed the position, and what was really elementary education was to be called secondary. Reading, writing, and arithmetic would be purely elementary education, but it would come out of the secondary rate and be given by the secondary education authority.

(10.0.) MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said he wished to remind the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen that the Secondary Education Commission recommended that the evening continuation schools should come under the supervision of the secondary education authority. He had had considerable experience of evening schools in his own county, and he knew from his own knowledge that a large number of them did give secondary education. In many cases the education was of a mixed character. He ventured to say on the Committee Stage of the Bill that the Government would make a great mistake if they attempted to draw a line between the evening schools which were of an elementary character and those which were of a secondary character. It was an impossible problem, and he was glad to think that the prognostications in regard to this matter had been justified.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said he should have agreed with every word of his hon. friend who had just spoken if the financial arrangements had been different. There was very great danger that if the charge for elementary education in the evening schools was met in the way proposed, the higher education portion of the Bill would be very disappointing.

MR. ERNEST GRAY said that if the House divided on this Amendment which was made in the House of Lords he should support the action of the Government on the ground that the alteration which was made on the Report stage was of the most deplorable character. He was amused at the attempts of his right hon. friend to define what was elementary and what was higher education. The right hon. Gentleman had reduced the definitions to an absurdity.

He was perfectly sure that the day was not far distant when those attempts to draw the line between elementary and higher education would disappear. It was absurd that the same instruction which was given before four o'clock should be elementary, while after four it was higher education. If that was not reducing definition to an absurdity, he did not know what it was.

*MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) said that the present arrangement was most disadvantageous, as it opened a prospect of division where he would gladly have avoided it—viz., between the elementary day schools and evening continuation classes. The arrangement which the First Lord of the Treasury agreed to when the House was in Committee contained a very satisfactory development of the plan that was found useful in years which were gone; but as the Bill now stood, in the large Urban Districts and non-County Boroughs it would be found disastrous to transfer the management of evening schools from the local educational authority to the County Councils. Surely this was an illustration of the absurdity of the claim of the Government that this Bill provided a single authority for all sorts of education.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said it was agreed on all hands that the present settlement was unsatisfactory. He did not think that with a perfectly free hand the Prime Minister would have suggested such a solution. It divided the authority in respect to elementary education. The wiser course would have been for the Government to amend the Lords' Amendments by handing over work which was purely elementary to the elementary authority. There were a number of authorities which dealt with elementary, but not secondary education. During the evening elementary education went out of their hands into the hands of someone else. That was a most unsatisfactory arrangement. What he apprehended was that the 2d. rate, especially in poor counties, where the assessment was low, would be completely absorbed by purely elementary work, and that there would be nothing left for secondary or higher education.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 15, line 6, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 15, line 6, after 'school,' insert 'or college.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

MR. BRYCE asked for some explanation of this Amendment. He said he had looked through Parts II. and IV. of the Bill, and he did not find any reference to a trust deed. He did not see why the word "college" should be brought in here.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the right hon. Gentleman would find the reference to colleges in Schedule III.

MR. BRYCE said he would like to ask whether the Secretary to the Board of Education supposed that under these provisions anything could be done to interfere with the trusts of these secondary schools or colleges, which had schemes made for them by the Charity Commission or the Endowed School Commissioners.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: No.

Question put, and agreed to.

A Consequential Amendment made to the Bill—

"In page 15, line 7, by leaving out 'Local Education Authority,' and inserting 'Council.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 20, line 26, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 20, line 26, after 'purposes,' insert 'provided that the Board of Education may, if they think fit, pay any share of the Aid Grant under The Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, allotted to an association of Voluntary Schools, to the governing body of that association, if such governing body satisfy the Board of Education that proper arrangements have been made for the application of any sum so paid.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

DR. MACNAMARA said it was perfectly straightforward that any outstanding grant upon which the managers of voluntary schools had a claim should be paid over to them, but what he wanted to ask was what liability these associations had incurred. These associations were called into existence under the Act of 1897, for paying the grants to the voluntary schools. Their formation was not compulsory, but only permissive; and it was beyond his comprehension to know what claims these associations must have between the close of one system, and the beginning of another. He could not conceive of any liability which they would have to entitle them to this money at all. They were estimable bodies who had done nothing but meet together to dispense this money to the managers. This money ought to be applied to the school managers, who had done good work. In the absence of any explanation from the Secretary to the Board of Education as to what serious liability these voluntary school associations had entered into, he was entitled very strongly to object to this Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he could not quite understand why the hon. Gentleman objected to the Lords' Amendment. No money was taken from the taxpayer, because this was money which he had already parted with, and therefore he was not wronged, and the provided schools were not injured. The only people, therefore, who could be injured by the Amendment were the managers of the Voluntary schools. But this Amendment was introduced entirely in the interest of the managers of these Voluntary schools. It was thought that arrangements should be made that the managers should regard themselves over a great area as one corporate body, and that the money should be paid to them to give assistance to the weaker schools. Nobody would be hurt by that. He did not think that anyone interested in the Voluntary schools would take the line suggested by the hon. Member, and he hoped that the House would consent to the Lords' Amendment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the Prime Minister had suggested that nobody was damnified by the proposal in the Amendment, but he certainly thought the taxpayer was. He believed that a sum of £150,000 accrued to these voluntary associations to meet all the liabilities of the Voluntary schools. But supposing the managers said that they had no liabilities, were the voluntary associations to retain the money in their own hands, and have the right to hold the money, and use it for a building fund?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was very glad to hear that admission, because it showed quite clearly why this Amendment had been inserted. All these payments were made in advance, and this money would be paid over to the voluntary associations immediately before the charge for maintenance was transferred to the County Councils. It was quite clear that this £150,000 would be retained by the voluntary associations as an additional little gift to the Bishops and their satellites.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that if the hon. Member would look carefully at the Amendment he would see that there was no ground for the suggestion he had made. The money would be applied in payment of outstanding liabilities, and the amount not required for that purpose would be taken over by the managers of the schools for the purposes sanctioned by the Act. This was merely a provision that instead of the money being paid to the individual managers, it should be paid to the voluntary associations to be distributed by them.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said this Amendment could not be separated from one which had been discussed earlier in the evening when they found that these voluntary associations were to be galvanised into life for this special purpose, for a hint had fallen from the Attorney General that the voluntary associations were to be allowed to distribute this money, not according to the claims of the individual schools, but for any purpose the associations thought fit. The objection which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of

Dean had made was that, in the county a part of which he represented, there was a suspicion that there had been a great deal, if not of favouritism, at least of favour. If this money was to be paid over to these voluntary associations to be distributed as they thought fit, then they were fully justified, even at this last stage, in making a final protest against it.

SIR JOHN DORINGTON said this was an arrangement for meeting a gap until the appointed day occurred. The noble Lord the Member for the Cricklade Division had reiterated the charge made by the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean, that the voluntary associations of Gloucester had been guilty of malpractices in regard to the distribution of this grant. He repudiated any such charge whatever, and he ventured to say that the right hon. Gentleman ought to have stated more fully the evidence on which he had made that charge. The right hon. Gentleman's information had evidently come from a schoolmaster who had been refused an increase of salary, not by the school committee, but by his own managers, and who had raked up a long list of inequalities in the distribution of the grant. But these inequalities had been sanctioned by the Board of Education in order that a pupil teachers' centre might be established.

(10.38.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 151; Noes, 46. (Division List No. 647.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt Hon. St John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, W. Bromley-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. SirJosephC.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. SirJohn E.
Doughty, George
Douglas Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fellowes, Hon. AilwynEdward
Fergusson, RtHn. SirJ. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
Godson, SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'lets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.)
Greene, HenryD. (Shrewsbury)
Groves, James Grimble
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, RtHnH. (Somers't, E
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph (Monm'th
Leamy, Edmund
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. CharlesW. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray RtHn. A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. JohnP. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-

Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(IsleofWight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Stanley,EdwardJas(Somerset)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tomlinson, Sir. Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen,CharlesP.(Glouc.,Stroud
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M.(Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Helme, Norval Watson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, TheodoreC. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gower
Toulmin, George
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Hallifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson,Fred.W.(NorfolkMid.)
Wilson, HenryJ. (York,W.R.)

Tellers for the Noes.—Mr. Causton and Mr. Robert Spencer.

Lords' Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 22, line 39, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 22, line 39, leave out 'to the,' and insert 'or in any provision of a scheme made under the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1894, or the Endowed Schools Acts, 1869 to 1889, or the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900, to any.'"

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr. BRYCE said this Amendment was one of very considerable importance. The House would remember that they had not been able to discuss the Schedule, and he thought that the mischief in the latter part of it was very much increased by the Amendment. Under the Endowed Schools Acts and the Charitable Trusts Acts schools had been declared to be undenominational, which under the Bill would be open to a certain amount of sectarianism. The effect of the Amendment would be, as far as he understood it, to undo the unsectarian provisions contained in those schemes, and to subject them to the new provision of the Bill. Clearly that would be an enormous change; and he hoped that the Board of Education would be able to give some assurance that it could not be done. If the change could be carried out, it ought not to have been made without the fullest discussion.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said he wished to ask whether the Amendment would in the slightest degree affect schemes under the Welsh Intermediate Act. At present they were working very harmoniously, but if they were to be reconstructed he did not know what might happen.

Sir RORERT FINLAY said the effect of the Amendment was to substitute, for a reference to the Technical Instruction Acts, Part II. of this Bill. If hon. Members would look at the Section they would see that it provided that—

"References in any enactment to the provisions of Technical Instruction Acts, 1889 and 1891, relating to the powers of supplying or aiding the supply of technical or manual instruction, shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as references to the provisions of Part II. of this Act, and the provisions of this Act shall apply with respect to any school, college, or hostel established, and to any obligation incurred under the Technical Instruction Acts, 1889 and 1891, as if the school, college, or hostel had been established or the obligation incurred under Part II. of this Act."

It was perfectly obvious that there must be references in schemes under the Charitable Trusts Acts, the Endowed Schools Acts, and the Technical Instruction Acts; and it was also obvious that where references were provided they should be construed with reference to Part II. of the Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he believed that the Amendment would be found to be purely formal. The Technical Instruction Committee was abolished, and they must substitute a new authority. The schedule was intended to carry out that object. The right hon. Gentleman might take it from him that that was the intention, and he believed it would also be the effect, of the Amendment.

Mr. BRYCE said the difficulty was that the Amendment gave the power of altering schemes from an unsectarian to a sectarian character. That might not be the intention, but he feared it would be the effect.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords' Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 22, line 46, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 22, line 46, after 'Act,' insert as a new paragraph: 'The Local Government Board may, after consultation with the Board of Education, by order make such adaptations in the provisions of any local Act (including any Act to confirm a Provisional Order and any scheme under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, as amended by any subsequent Act) as may seem to them to be necessary to make those provisions conform with the provisions of this Act, and may also in like manner, on the application of any Council who have powers as to education under this Act, and have also powers as to education under any local Act, make such modifications in the local Act as will enable the powers under that Act to be exercised as if they were powers under this Act. Any order made under this provision shall operate as if enacted in this Act."

—the next Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said the Amendment was a very serious one to be introduced at this stage of the Bill. It appeared to give the Local Government Board the power of overriding existing Acts of Parliament. No opportunity had been given to them of consulting their constituents as to whether those local Acts contained valuable provisions; and it seemed to him that the House ought not to give legislative power to a Government Department. The Amendment enabled the change to be carried out practically without application to the local authority; and he doubted whether Parliament had ever before given such power to a Government Department. He hoped an explanation would be given before the Amendment was accepted.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that he could assure the hon. Gentleman that his fears were absolutely groundless. This was one of the commonest provisions inserted in Acts of Parliament. In this particular case, there were a great many local Acts which governed the action of the local authorities in regard to technical education; and it would be impossible to include necessary alterations in those Acts within the compass of an ordinary Act of Parliament. The Amendment gave the Local Government Board power to amend the Statutes in order to bring them into conformity with the present Bill.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS said that although the right hon. Gentleman stated it was one of the commonest provisions, he nevertheless gave no precedent. It was very doubtful, however, whether it was advisable to give this power to the Local Government Board, as the House had no power to supervise what the Board did.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Certainly, through the Provisional Order.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS said there was nothing about a Provisional Order in the Section. The Local Government Board would have the final word in the matter; and he considered that if Acts of Parliament were to be repealed, it ought to be by Provisional Order or by an Order of the Board, which would have to lie on the Table for forty days. Under the Section, whether that was the intention or not, the Local Government Board would merely have to make a Departmental Order, even without a capital "O." Under these circumstances, unless the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to amend the Section in order to make it compulsory on the Local Government Board to lay any Order on the Table, he thought it would be difficult for the House to accept the Amendment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the hon. Gentleman complained that there was not a capital "O" to the word order, but the order would deal with a great many matters of detail.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said it was not a Provisional Order.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he did not say it was.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: But the right hon. Gentleman said it was.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he was dealing with what the hon. Gentleman had said. A great many local authorities had expressed a desire that schemes under local Acts should be worked under this Act, and in order to give effect to those aspirations the Amendment was absolutely necessary.

MR. BRYCE asked why in the case of a County Council application was necessary, whereas in the case of a municipality no provision was made for its concurrence. Surely there should be a provision enabling Municipal Councils as well as County Councils to express their agreement?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the Amendment would apply to Municipal as well as County Councils.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER said it was evidently in the mind of the President of the Local Government Board that the Councils should be consulted in this matter, and that also appeared to be the wish of the Attorney General. But he wanted to know if it was the intention of the Government to bring the words of the Bill into conformity with that wish; and would the House be assured that all Councils—County as well as Borough—would be consulted, and that their wishes would not be overruled.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the Amendment was really a very important constitutional departure. It was not the only constitutional departure they had had in connection with the Bill. Even the President of the Local Government Board considered it was an important departure; and the right hon. Gentleman assumed, and he was right in assuming, that if the Government proceeded regularly, they would proceed by Provisional Order, if they wished to modify Acts of Parliament. Then the House would be modifying Acts it had previously passed. But the principle which was now introduced gave, as far as he could discover, power to a Government Department to abrogate Acts of Parliament without any Provisional Order at all. That was a very important constitutional principle and this was not the only time that the privileges of this House were treated with contempt by the Government. The very last Amendment to the Education Bill which would be put in the House showed the extent to which the Government was gradually whittling away the privileges of this House, and distributing them among the House of Lords, the Bishops, and Government Departments.

(11.13.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 152; Noes, 42. (Division List No. 648.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph.
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, W. Bromley-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.

Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Linc.)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Groves, James Grimble
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H. (Somers't, E
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Leamy, Edmund
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd. John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Toulmin, George
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whitley and Mr. Samuel Evans.

Committee appointed to draw up Reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to one of their Amendments to the Bill.

Committee nominated of Sir William Anson, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Lloyd-George, and Mr. Long.

Committee to withdraw immediately.

Three to be the Quorum.—(*Sir William Anson.*)

LONDON WATER BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered and agreed to.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Reason for disagreeing to one of the Lords' Amendments, reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.

Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th October last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at half after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 18*th December*, 1902.

ROYAL ASSENT—COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent.

1. Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2).
2. Patent Law Amendment.
3. Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland).
4. Expiring Laws Continuance.
5. Osborne Estate.
6. Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2).
7. Mail Ships.
8. Militia and Yeomanry.
9. Education (England and Wales).
10. London Water.
11. Uganda Railway,
12. Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands), as followeth:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen*,

"The period since the meeting of Parliament last January has been fruitful in events of public importance and interest. The war in South Africa, after lasting for two years and a half, has been brought to a successful and honourable conclusion; the new Colonies of the Transvaal and the Orange River have been incorporated in My Empire, and, in spite of the inevitable difficulties consequent on a long and destructive war, there seems every reason to hope that material prosperity, greater than any they have yet experienced, may visit these regions, and that all sections of the population may live together in friendship with each other and loyalty to the Crown.

"The ceremony of the Coronation had of necessity to be postponed through the dangerous illness, from which, by the blessing of Almighty God, I have been granted a complete recovery. But the sympathy and affection manifested by all classes of the community have caused Me deep gratification, and have rendered even more memorable an occasion which differed from every preceding event of a like character in respect of the numbers and the importance of those who visited this Kingdom from the most distant portions of My Empire.

"The great Indian Feudatory Princes showed by their presence at a ceremony of Imperial significance their devotion to the King-Emperor; while the Prime Ministers of the self-governing Colonies gave by their attendance yet another proof of the strong feeling of attachment binding these free communities to the Crown and to the Mother Country, which was so strikingly manifested during the recent war.

"Advantage was taken of the presence of these representative statesmen to discuss many questions closely affecting the relations between the various portions of My Empire, and I am confident that these personal communications, followed as they have been by the visit of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to South Africa for the purpose of investigating on the spot the difficult problems which there await solution, will be of the utmost value both in respect of their immediate effects and as precedents for the future.

"Operations have been undertaken in Eastern Africa for the purpose of checking the depredations committed by the Mullah Abdullah against the tribes under My protection. These operations have been conducted in the face of difficulties which have hitherto stood in the way of their complete success. My forces are receiving valuable facilities from the Italian Government, whose African Possessions are also affected by the Mullah's aggression. I hail with satisfaction the co-operation of the two countries in a matter which concerns them both.

"The Chilean and Argentine Governments accepted the good offices of My revered Mother for the purpose of obtaining a settlement of a long-standing difference regarding the frontiers of the two Republics. After a careful examination of the documentary evidence and a survey of the localities in dispute by a Commission of experts, I have pronounced an arbitral Award, which has been readily accepted by both parties, and which may be expected to prevent the

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

recurrence of misunderstandings between them. It has given Me cordial satisfaction to have been able to contribute in this way to the establishment of good relations between the two Republics.

"In concert with other Governments interested in the sugar trade, I have entered into a Convention for the purpose of putting an end to the grave inconveniences resulting from the grant of excessive bounties on the production of sugar.

"I regret that the constant complaints which My Government have found it necessary to address to the Government of Venezuela in regard to unjustifiable and arbitrary acts against British subjects and property during the last two years have been persistently disregarded. It has become necessary for My Government, acting in concert with that of His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor, which has also serious causes of complaint against the Republic, to insist upon measures of redress.

"An Agreement was concluded early in the present year between My Government and that of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, under which the two Governments have bound themselves to assist one another in certain eventualities for the defence of their respective interests. This Agreement will, I believe, be for the advantage of both countries, and will contribute towards the maintenance of the general peace in the extreme East.

"I have concluded with His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China a Commercial Treaty which promises to secure, not only for this Country, but for the commerce of the world, valuable facilities and advantages. Portions of this Treaty will not become operative unless the same engagements be entered into with China by other Powers; it contains, however, provisions of great value which do not depend upon their assent. Arrangements have been made for the withdrawal of the International Forces which have been in occupation of Shanghae.

"I have also concluded with His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia a Treaty defining the frontier between that country and the Soudan.

"In My Indian Dominions, which, during the last few years have suffered so severely from famine, much anxiety was caused by the anticipation of another year of drought; but I rejoice to say that this danger has now been averted by a plentiful fall of rain, and that the prospects of the agricultural population throughout the country are generally good.

"The Governor General is about to hold a great assembly at Delhi for the purpose of proclaiming My succession to the Imperial Crown of India, and it gives me the highest satisfaction to reflect that this important ceremony will be associated with a period of unusual commercial and financial prosperity.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"I thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the services of the year.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"During a Session of unusual length you have passed measures dealing with the Supply of Water to the Metropolis, with the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, and the Registration of Clubs, and with a much needed reform of the Patent Laws. These subjects have long called for legislative treatment, and I rejoice that time has been found to pass the necessary Acts. The heaviest portion, however, of your labours has been devoted to the Bill for the co-ordination and improvement of primary, secondary, and higher Education in England and Wales. It was impossible, in the public interest, to defer any longer dealing with this great subject; nor could it be touched without raising issues which all would desire to see left outside the region of political discussion. I trust that the controversies which have been aroused during the passing of the Measure will not be of long duration, and that it will greatly contribute to the solution of what is perhaps the most difficult, and is certainly not the least important, of all the questions of domestic legislation which can engage your attention.

"I pray that the blessing of Providence may rest upon all your labours."

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord CHANCELLOR said—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of His Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed and now read, we do, in His Majesty's name, and in obedience to His commands, prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next, to be here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 18*th December*, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

IMPRISONMENT OF A MEMBER.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received the following letter relating to the imprisonment of a Member—

To the Right Honourable
The Speaker,
House of Commons, London.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that on this evening I remanded Mr. John Roche, M.P., to Tullamore Gaol, he having declined to give bail, on a charge of having taken part in an unlawful assembly at Knockeraghery, County Roscommon, on 9th November last. The said charge will be heard at Roscommon on 19th inst.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN PRESTON,
Resident Magistrate,
Athlone, Ireland.

Athlone, 16th December, 1902.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: from Ashton-in-Makerfield; Bamfurlong; Golborne (two); and Lowton; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LICENSED HOUSES.

Returns presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th March; *Sir Henry Fowler*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 408.]

CIVIL SERVANTS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th November; *Mr. Gibson Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 409.]

OUTBREAK OF ANKYLOSTOMIASIS IN A CORNISH MINE.

Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of State thereon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BRITISH FORESTRY.

Copy presented, of Report thereon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1901.

Copy presented, of Census of England and Wales, 1901 (County of Dorset) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (HYDERABAD).

Copy presented, of Agreement respecting the Hyderabad Assigned Districts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table—

List of the Bills, Reports, Estimates, and Accounts and Papers printed by Order of the House, and of Papers presented by Command, Session 1901, with a General Alphabetical Index thereto, 27th Parliament, Third Session, 1st and 2nd Edward VII., 16th January 1902 to 18th December 1902; to be printed. [No. 410.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Australian Commonwealth Labour Laws —Exclusion of English Hatters.

MR. DAVID THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if his attention has been called to the refusal by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia of permission to six English hat-makers to land at Sydney, on the ground that under the existing law it had no discretion; and whether, seeing that such law appears contrary to the Imperial spirit shown in the resolutions passed at the recent Conference of Colonial Premiers, he will suggest its modification, and also that in all future legislation directed towards the consolidation of the Empire equal treatment shall be reserved for the Mother Country.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) It will be seen, on reference to the reply made to the honourable Member for Ross and Cromarty yesterday, that the six hatters have been allowed to land. The law makes no discrimination against the Mother Country; and as the policy of excluding contract labour is entirely a matter for the Australian Parliament, His Majesty's Government are not in a position to suggest any modification of it.

Greenwich Old Age Pension Fund.

Mr. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will be able to announce before the prorogation any decision which may have been reached with regard to the readjustment of the Greenwich Old Age Pensions Fund.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I am afraid I am not in a position at the present moment to make any announcement on this subject; but I hope shortly to be able to advise my honourable friend of the decision at which the Government has arrived.

Decorations and Orders—Ministerial Responsibility.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the statement by the Secretary of State for the Home Department that the grant of decorations and orders rests solely with His Majesty the King, will he state whether his Majesty's Ministers hold themselves as having no duty to advise His Majesty on such matters, and no responsibility for such grants.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) There are certain decorations—for example, the Royal Victorian Order—which are absolutely at the personal disposition of the Sovereign. As regards others, there seems to be nothing to add to what I have already said in answer to the hon. Member on the same subject.

Venezuela—Anglo-German Naval Action.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the plan of operations against Venezuela agreed upon with Germany was that recommended by Vice Admiral Douglas, viz., that all the Venezuelan gunboats should be seized until our demands are complied with; whether, in view of the destruction of the two gunboats seized by the German naval force, and the consequent impossibility of holding them as pledges until our demands are complied with, His Majesty's Government propose to continue joint action with Germany; whether it is now proposed to establish a blockade of the Venezuelan ports; whether the objections to such a blockade, alluded to by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in his communication to the Admiralty of 22nd October, 1902, have been considered and removed; whether any intimation has been received from the Government of the United States that it will object to American shipping being interfered with; and, if so, how is it proposed to conduct the blockade.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) The answer to the first three Questions is in the affirmative, and to the fifth in the negative. The objections to a blockade have been carefully considered. They cannot, however, be altogether removed, as some of them are inherent in that particular class of naval operations.

Education Bill—Clause 21 (b) and (5).

Mr. JOHN HUTTON (Yorkshire, N.R., Richmond): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, under Clause 21 (*b*) of the Education Bill, any agreement between a council of a non-county borough or urban district with the council of a county will be irrevocable, or whether it will be possible to enter into a provisional agreement for a limited period.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) Relinquishment under paragraph (*b*) of Clause 21 is necessarily permanent; but arrangements between non-county boroughs and County Councils, which need not be of a permanent character, can be made under sub-Section (5) of the Clause relating to educational committees.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether His Majesty's Government will present to Parliament copies of all correspondence with other Powers regarding the interpretation of the Sugar Bounties Convention recently discussed in this House, and especially of the bearing of its provisions upon the so-called most-favoured-nation Clause contained in various treaties to which this country is a party.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) The only correspondence with respect to the most-favoured-nation Clause which has taken place with foreign Governments is that which has passed with the Russian Government; and that will be laid. It will be considered whether further Papers can properly be published at the present stage.

Dublin Licence Holders.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if he will explain on what grounds the police have refused to prosecute licence holders in Dublin for continuing to trade pending the usual confirmation of their licence.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) I am not aware to what particular case the hon. Member refers. The police Report they have never refused to prosecute in cases of the kind mentioned.

Cork Winter Assizes—Crown Challenges of Jurors.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at the Winter Assizes recently held in Cork; whether he is aware that in two Macroom bankruptcy cases thirty-nine jurors and thirty-three respectively were ordered by the Crown representative to stand aside; in the Passage criminal assault case twenty-four jurors, and in the Clare manslaughter case fifty-three jurors were similarly treated; and was the action of the Crown representative taken with the knowledge and approval of the Irish Law Officers.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The number of jurors set aside in the bankruptcy cases is correctly stated. The Crown Solicitor reports that it was imperatively necessary to set them aside, as canvassing of the jurors on the panel on behalf of the prisoner extensively prevailed for several days before the trial, and influence was used in other ways upon the jurors in the interests of the accused. The number set aside in the second trial of the assault case was twenty-three. The jury disagreed on the first trial, although the evidence was perfectly plain and convincing. The friends of the prisoner were numerous and influential. and the Crown Solicitor believes they would have succeeded in defeating justice on the second, as they did on the first, occasion if he had not taken the course he did. In the Clare case the jury had disagreed at the Summer Assizes in Clare. Fifty-three jurors were set aside by the Crown, and twenty challenged by the prisoner. The case was perfectly clear. No special directions were given to the Crown Solicitors, but having regard to the circumstances mentioned, I entirely approve of their action.

Maryborough Winter Assizes—Crown Challenges of Jurors — Kilbride Prosecution.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland, if he will state how many special jurors were told to stand by on behalf of the Crown in the case of the King *v.* Kilbride heard at the late winter assizes at Maryborough; to what religious persuasion did those jurors belong; and what was the creed and politics of the accused and of the jury empanelled in the case.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) I have no information on the matters referred to beyond that contained in my reply to the similar inquiries addressed to me on Monday last† by the hon. Member for South Leitrim, save that I have since been informed that the jurors on the panel have been extensively canvassed on behalf of the prisoner.

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† See preceding volume, page 1220.

MR. FLYNN: To ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether, seeing that the jury by whom Mr. Denis Kilbride was convicted at the recent winter assizes at Maryborough was a special jury secured under the provisions of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, and that forty-five jurors were ordered by the Crown to stand aside before the jury was empanelled, he will state what number of Protestants and Roman Catholics respectively constituted the jury which convicted Mr. Kilbride.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) I have no information on the matters referred to beyond that contained in my reply to the Question put to me on Monday last by the hon. Member for South Leitrim, save that I have since been informed that the jurors on the panel had been extensively canvassed on behalf of the prisoner.

Income-Tax Arrangements in Ireland.

MR. CAREW (Meath, S.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the fact that difficulty is experienced by owners of property in Ireland in checking the assessments of income-tax on houses and lands in consequence of the numbers of the assessments not corresponding with the numbers in either the valuation books or rate books, the Inland Revenue authorities will cause the numbers of assessments to be revised so as to correspond with either the numbers in the valuation books or rate books, which are locally available for inspection, and consequently a basis and means for the purpose of identification.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) I understand that the Board of Inland Revenue will be glad to do what they can to obviate the difficulty referred to in the first part of the Question, but they fear that the remedy suggested in the second part would not be practicable if only for the reason that the numbering of the Poor Law Valuation List varies from year to year, whereas the Income-Tax (Schedule A) assessment remains unaltered for five years. In any case it is too late now to make any change as regards the current year (1902-3). The Board propose, however, that next year (1903-4), which happens to be a year of new assessment under Schedule A, the number of the Poor Law Assessment in 1902 shall be entered on the Income-Tax Demand Notes, as well as the number of the Income-Tax Assessment itself, the same plan being followed in the first year of every subsequent quinquennial period. It would not be possible (except at a cost out of proportion to the advantage to be gained) to show the new Poor Law numbers in the intervening years. But it is thought that, if they retain the demand note for the first year of the period, landlords will be able, by reference to it, to identify the property without difficulty in any of the four succeeding years.

London and Globe Corporation.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): To ask Mr. Attorney General if consideration has been given to the supplementary documents laid before him in respect of the case of the London and Globe Corporation; whether it is intended to take criminal proceedings thereon; and, if not, whether he will state the grounds of such determination.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) The documents referred to are now under consideration.

Telegraphists' Promotions in London Central Office.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster General whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a member of the personal staff of the Controller, Central Telegraph Office, has been promoted to the superintending staff of the Instrument Gallery by reason of his superior abilities; and whether, seeing that for twenty-eight years he has had no experience of this work, and that an officer who was passed over has been asked to instruct this officer in the duties pertaining to the post of superintendent, he will state why a man qualified to instruct his superior was not held to be qualified for the vacant post.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member on the 3rd instant.†

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxv., 1052.

Shannon Development Company.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the Board of Works have recently examined the agreement under which a subsidy has been paid to the Shannon Development Company, and have made inquiries as to the manner in which this agreement has been observed by the company, he will state what steps they propose to take in this case.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Perhaps I may be permitted to reply to this Question. The services have been worked in accordance with the agreement between the Board and the Company, and, as stated in my reply to the hon. Member's previous Question of the 25th November, no steps are contemplated under the agreement.

United Irish League Officials occupying Evicted Farms and Grazing Land.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is prepared to give a Return of the names and addresses of the officials of branches of the United Irish League who are now in occupation of evicted farms and eleven months grazing lands.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No, Sir. I must adhere to the rule which has been invariably adopted on all previous occasions of refusing to identify in this manner the occupants of such lands.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will lay upon the Table the names of the 184 officials and members of the United Irish League who purchased and rented boycotted farms.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No, Sir. I must adhere to the rule which has been invariably adopted on all previous occasions of refusing to identify in this manner the occupants of such lands.

Leinster Winter Assizes—Judge's Charge to Grand Jury—Proclamation of Leinster under Crimes Act.

MR. FLYNN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to Mr. Justice Kenny's address to the Grand Jury at the opening of the Winter Assizes for the Province of Leinster, in which he describes the several counties as in a peaceable and orderly condition; and whether, in view of this statement and of the fact that there were only twenty-eight cases from the thirteen counties comprising the Winter Assize County, the Government will consider the advisability of withdrawing the provisions of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act from the districts where they are now in force.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The learned judge stated he had been informed by the police authorities that, with some exceptions, the several counties were in a peaceable and orderly condition. The reply to the latter part of the Question is in the negative.

Conduct of Police at Bartlemy (Cork).

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on Sunday, 14th December, Sergeant Farrell and a constable named Slattery posted themselves in front of the chapel gate at Bartlemy, County Cork, prior to the holding of the 9.30 a.m. mass, and marched up and down there, and that, when remonstrated with by the curate of the parish, they stated they were only obeying instructions; and will he say who gave the orders to these policemen to act in this manner; and is it the intention of the Irish administration to place police in front of Roman Catholic churches in Ireland on Sundays in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The action of the police on this occasion is not correctly represented in the Question. A public meeting of a local organisation had been advertised to be held on the date mentioned at Bartlemy at eleven o'clock. The sergeant and constable were ordered to attend the meeting. Before acting on this instruction, however, they properly availed themselves of the opportunity of being present at divine service in the local Roman Catholic church. While waiting outside the church for the arrival of the officiating clergyman they were interrogated as to their motives in standing in this position. There was no disrespect shown by the police, and none was intended. The inquiry put in the concluding part of the Question is consequently based on a misapprehension.

Bawnboy Labourers' Cottages Scheme.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Bawnboy Rural District Council has called the attention of the Local Government Board to the character of the award made by the arbitrator and to the compensation payable to the landlords under the Provisional Order obtained by the Council to erect labourers' cottages; and, seeing that the Bawnboy Rural District Council has decided to abandon the erection of the cottages in consequence of the compensation allowed under this award, will he explain why the Local Government Board appointed as arbitrator a local landlord; and will the Local Government Board take any steps to have this award set aside, seeing that the District Council has no right to appeal.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Council considers the award excessive. It has frequently happened, I am afraid, that the awards of arbitrators do not satisfy both parties concerned. The Council has no power to abandon the erection of the cottages on the ground stated. The professional qualifications of the arbitrator are of the highest character, and the Local Government Board does not consider there are any grounds for the objections raised by the Council. The arbitrator is part owner of a townland which yields him a profit rent of £2 5s. a year.

Irish Agricultural Department — Veterinary Inspection at Queen's County Shows.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why the Department of Agriculture sent down their own veterinary surgeon to examine mares awarded premiums at shows in Queen's County at a cost of £30, seeing that the services of competent professional men could be obtained locally at less cost.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Department on such occasions invariably employs veterinary surgeons who are not resident in the county in order to obviate any ground for the suspicion which might be entertained that local practitioners would favour their clients.

Land Purchase—Sub-division of Holdings before Payment of Original Loans.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state upon what grounds the Irish Land Commission declined to approve of the sale of a farm of seventeen acres, held by Mr. John Walker, Towlerton (Edge Estate), Queen's County, the farm having been sold by public auction to Mrs. Dooge, also a tenant purchaser under the Land Commission, whose holding adjoins Walker's; and whether the Land Commission demanded a fine of £50 from the purchaser as a condition to their approving of the sale.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) In this case an attempt was made to subdivide a holding purchased under the Purchase Acts while a portion of the purchase money remained unpaid. This cannot be done without the consent of the Land Commission, and that body exercised the powers conferred upon it by Section 30 of the Land Act of 1881, and declined to sanction the transaction unless a sum of £50 was paid by the purchaser to be applied to the reduction of the portion of the original loan still outstanding.

Police Protection for Robert Owen, Kilbride.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the members of the Royal Irish Constabulary employed in protection duty upon a farm in the occupation of Robert Owen, at Kilbride, near Tullamore, have been engaged in husbandry operations upon the farm; and will he state whether the occupier remunerates them for their labour, and whether the cost of those policemen is charged to the local rates.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I am informed that there is no foundation for the statement in the first part of the Question. The cost of the police employed in protecting Robert Owen is defrayed from the Constabulary Vote.

Local Government Ireland (No. 2) Bill—Contracts under Clause 18.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has considered what will be the effect in Ireland of giving contracts to the lowest tender as provided under the provisions of Clauses 18, Sections (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), of the Local Government (Ireland) Amending Bill; and whether he has taken steps to secure the observance of the provisions of the Fair Wages Resolution as regards wages and conditions of labour; or, if not, in what way does he propose to safeguard the interests and prevent the sweating of workmen and boys employed on such contracts.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The effect of the Clause is not correctly stated in the first part of the Question. Its object is to safeguard the interests of the ratepayers. There is no reason whatever to apprehend that the Clause will militate against the observance of the Fair Wages Resolution, which has been communicated to the local authorities. The Local Government Board has not, however, and never had, power to insist on the observance of the Resolution in contracts entered into by local bodies.

Limerick County Council Printing Contract.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the contractors to whom the Limerick County Council have given the contract for their printing; and whether steps will be taken to secure that the provisions of the Fair Wages Resolution of this House are given effect to in the carrying out of the contract.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The County Council accepted the tenders of Mr. Quinnell, of Tralee, for the printing contracts. The Local Government Board has no power to take the steps suggested in the latter part of the Question.

Carrigbyrne Dispensary Medical Officer.

Mr. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state why the Local Government Board have endeavoured to have a lady medical officer appointed to the vacant Carrigbyrne dispensary district, when the medical men have refused to become candidates at the salary sanctioned by the Local Government Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Guardians have appointed a medical gentleman to the post of dispensary doctor at Carrickbyrne. Ladies are not disqualified from holding this position if professionally qualified, but the Local Government Board has never taken any steps to promote their candidature.

Royal Army Medical Corps—Pay of Junior Officers in India.

Dr. THOMPSON: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will explain the reason of the delay in promulgating the increased rates of pay for the junior grades of officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The matter to which the hon. Member refers required, and has received, the consideration of the Government of India. I am now in possession of their views, and have communicated my decision to the War Office, with whom it rests to publish the new rates.

Flash Point of Petroleum Committee.

Mr. TULLY: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to the Report of the Select Committee on the Flash Point of Petroleum; and whether he proposes to deal with this matter by legislation or otherwise.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) As regards the latter part of this Question, I cannot add anything to my answer of the 9th instant†, or make any statement as to legislation.

Petroleum Tests in New York.

Mr. TULLY: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state, with regard to the petroleum test in New York, what are the facts as to the test employed in New York State and New York City respectively.

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† See preceding volume, page 452.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I will answer this Question at some length, because in my answer of the 9th instant I made a statement with regard to the petroleum test in New York which was not sufficiently explicit, and which was also, I find on further inquiry, in some degree erroneous. My statement that the test was an open fire test should have been limited to the State of Pennsylvania, as regards which it is quite correct. In New York State, on the other hand, I find that a close flash test of 100° by the Elliott Cup test (equivalent to rather less than 100° by the Abel test), has been prescribed by law, but, according to evidence given before the Select Committee in 1896, no machinery had been provided for enforcing it; and, so far as I am aware, the same conditions exist at the present time. As regards New York City the same test is prescribed, and I understand that effective means are taken to enforce it.

Capital Sentence on Anne Spillane.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has inquired into the circumstances under which Anne Spillane, now under sentence of death at Guildford, committed the crime for which she has been condemned to die; and whether, under the circumstances of the case, he will recommend that the Royal clemency be extended to the condemned woman.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I must decline to answer Questions in Parliament as to the advice which it may be my duty to tender to the King in this case.

London and North Western Railway—Rebuilding of Demolished Workmen's Dwellings in London.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the London and North Western Railway Company have carried out their undertaking given to the Home Secretary respecting the rebuilding of the workmen's dwellings at Broad Street, E.C., demolished by this Company; and will he state what steps he proposes to take in view of the alleged failure of the Company to carry out the obligations given by them to Parliament.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I have made inquiries, and am informed that when the Railway Company took steps to carry out their undertaking to rebuild the tenements as they were before, they found that the plans would not comply with the provisions of the London Building Act now in force. New plans had, therefore, to be prepared, and some delay has consequently occurred. I am assured that the new plans have now been approved by the district surveyor under that Act, and that the Company will proceed with the matter with all due speed.

Cider Standard—Suggested Committee.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will appoint a Committee, consisting of agriculturists and experts, to consider the advisability of setting up a standard for pure cider, and to consider what steps should be taken to prevent substitutes for cider being sold as cider.

(*Answered by Mr. Hanbury.*) The provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts should be sufficient to prevent the sale of adulterated cider, and I will instruct our inspectors to call the attention of local authorities to the subject as opportunity occurs. Cases of improper marking could be dealt with under the Merchandise Marks Acts. The setting up of a standard for cider would probably be a matter of considerable difficulty, and would certainly require fresh legislation. I hope that we shall obtain assistance in regard to such questions from the proposed Cider Institute, which would in that respect supply the place of the Committee suggested in the Question.

Historical Manuscripts Commissioners—Londonderry Corporation MSS.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will direct the attention of the Historical Manuscripts Commissioners to the MSS. in charge of the Londonderry Corporation, with a view to having them printed.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) The Historical Manuscripts Commissioners are always glad to be informed of manuscripts of importance, and will doubtless give due consideration to the manuscripts referred to in the Question if particulars are laid before them; but as they have only limited resources, it will, of course, be understood that they cannot deal simultaneously with the many collections of manuscripts of interest throughout the United Kingdom which have been, or may be, brought to their notice.

Forehoe (Norfolk) Union—Retiring Master's Pension.

MR. FREDERICK WILSON (Norfolk, Mid): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state on what ground the Local Government Board raised the value of the emoluments of the late master of Forehoe Union (after he had quitted the employment of the Guardians at the end of two and a half years' service) for the purpose of raising his pension under the Superannuation Act, thereby throwing an increased burden on the ratepayers of the union.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) In this case a question arose between the Guardians and the late master of the workhouse as to the annual value of the emoluments of his office for the purposes of the superannuation allowance to which he was entitled under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, and the matter was referred to the Local Government Board for decision. The Guardians estimated the yearly value at £32 10s., and the officer at £53 15s. It appeared to the Local Government Board that the correct value was £46 5s. per annum, and they decided accordingly. As, however, the amount which had been annually deducted from the late master's salary as a contribution for the purposes of the Act in respect of his emoluments had been based upon the Guardians' estimate, the Board considered that the officer ought to pay to the Guardians the difference between the amount which would have been deducted had the value of the emoluments been calculated on the sum of £46 5s. and that which was actually deducted. They informed the parties that their decision was given on the understanding that this would be done.

Police Sales of Lost Dogs for Vivisection Purposes.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the expediency of introducing legislation early next session with a view to the better protection of lost dogs, and to stop the sale of lost or stolen dogs by the police for vivisectional purposes.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) This is not a matter with which my Department is concerned.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Metropolitan Police are empowered to appropriate for the purposes of a Police Fund money derived from the sale of lost or stolen dogs; and will he consider the expediency of taking such action as may be necessary to prevent the sale of lost or stolen dogs for vivisectional purposes.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I will deal with these points in the further communication which I promised the hon. Member yesterday as to the methods of the police in dealing with lost or stolen dogs.

Inch (Kerry) Foreshore—Adjustment of High-Water Line.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: (Kerry, W.) To ask the President of the Board of Trade what steps have been taken to define the high-water line on the Strand at Inch, county Kerry; whether an inquiry has been held, and, if so, when and by whom, and with what result; and whether, seeing that expense has already been incurred and injury done to the people of the district because they are prevented taking sand and seaweeds, the only manure for their crops, he will take steps at once to define this boundary line.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The inquiries which are being made are not yet complete. Until a report is received I can express no opinion as to the action which will be taken.

Post Office Examining Mechanics—Holloway Instrument Factory.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): To ask the Postmaster General whether he will state what are the rules governing the selection and appointment of examining mechanics at the Holloway Postal Telegraph instrument factory and depôt; and if he will direct that, for the future, seniority and merit shall govern these appointments.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Appointments to the Class of Examining Mechanics, second class at the Post Office Instrument Factory, Holloway, are filled by men selected from the unestablished mechanics at that factory who can be recommended as having shown aptitude for the work and whose conduct has been satisfactory. In considering the relative merits of the men seniority is taken into account.

Holloway and Mount Pleasant Telegraph Factories—Unestablished Staff.

MR. LOUGH: To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that over 90 per cent. of the continuously-employed officers at the Holloway and Mount Pleasant postal telegraph factories and stores, with from two to thirty years service, are still unestablished; and will he say if there is any probability of their being placed on the established staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) It is the fact that the bulk of the men employed at the Post Office factories are unestablished, and there is no intention of placing them on the establishment.

Postal and Telegraphic Department Staffs.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: To ask the Postmaster General whether any Commission or Committee is at present sitting, or is contemplated, to inquire into matters connected with the staffs of the Postal and Telegraphic Departments; what is the scope of the reference to the Committee or Commission; and who are the Members acting upon it.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) No such Committee is sitting or contemplated.

Conditions of Poor Law Relief for the Unemployed.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, with a view to preventing men from being disfranchised who are compelled through lack of employment to go upon relief works, he will recommend that Poor Law authorities, instead of opening stone yards and the like under their own auspices, will subsidise such works as may be started by urban and borough councils.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I understand the object which the hon. Member has in view, but it does not appear to me that the Poor Law authorities would be empowered to carry out such an arrangement as that contemplated by him.

Suggested Government Grant for Relief of the Unemployed.

MR KEIR HARDIE: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will make a grant in aid from public funds to aid local authorities in meeting the distress now prevailing due to lack of employment.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) I can add nothing to the answer given yesterday by my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board.†

Lane Fox Estate, Leitrim.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that during the years 1900 and 1901 the agricultural portion of the Lane Fox estate, situate in the barony of Dromahaire, county Leitrim, was sold through the Irish Land Commission Court to the tenants in occupation for a sum exceeding £110,000; and that during this sale the landlord represented Mr. George Hewson, J.P., as an agricultural tenant and, as such, obtained the sale of his holding, consisting of demesne land, mansion, rights of fishing, game woods; will he state whether any official of the Land Commission inspected the holding before the purchase money was advanced; and, if so, will he state the nature of this report and say what further action, if any, will be taken in the matter.

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† See page 1501.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) A sum exceeding the amount stated was advanced to enable 693 tenants on this estate to purchase their holdings. Mr. Hewson obtained two advances, and the holdings, the subject of sale to him, were duly inspected and reported upon by one of the Land Commission inspectors before the advances were sanctioned.

MR. O'DOWD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in July last the non-agricultural portion of the Lane Fox estate, County Leitrim, consisting of portions of the demesne land and of the houses and plots in and adjoining the village of Dromahaire, in that county, was offered for sale by public auction by the landlord: that Mr. Stewart Gillmour, merchant, of Dromahaire, has purchased his own holding in the village through the Land Commission Court; that Mr. Gillmour's holding consists of a commercial establishment, with steam bakery, electric light plant, with three and a half statute acres of con-acre grazing land attached; and that the landlord has represented to the Irish Land Commission that this holding is agricultural, and has supported that representation by affidavit, and will he state whether this sale has been sanctioned by the Land Commission; and will he say what is the amount applied for by Mr. Gillmour, and will an inquiry be instituted into the circumstances surrounding the sale.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Land Commission has no knowledge of the matter referred to in the first part of the Question. The purchase agreement in Mr. Gillmour's case is dated the 24th July, 1902, and the advance of £480 applied for was made on the 2nd December, 1902. In the agreement for purchase he is stated to have been in occupation of the holding since 1880.

Wexford Technical School Grant.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Board of Agriculture promised to give a grant for a technical school in Wexford; and if he can state why the promise has not been carried out.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Department promised to make a contribution to the Technical Instruction Scheme, which includes the proposed erection of a school building out of funds to be borrowed by the District Council, with the sanction of the Local Government Board. The latter Department is in correspondence with the Council on the subject.

Kenmare (Kerry) Harbour Grant.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the application of the Harbour Board, Dingle, County Kerry, for a grant under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act has yet been considered; and, if so, when will the Board know the result.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what grant, if any, will be made under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act to improve the harbour of Kenmare, County Kerry.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I hope to settle these and kindred questions during the month of January, when I shall be better able to confer with private and public bodies who may be interested locally.

Labourers' Allotments at Oldcastle (Meath).

MR. M'GOVERN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the fact that the Privy Council rejected the application of the Oldcastle Rural District Council No. 2 to give additional allotments to six labourers in occupation of cottages in that district, on the grounds that the proposed plots were on the opposite side of the road and detached from the plots attached to the labourers' cottages; and, seeing that the Local Government Board Inspector approved of these additional plots, and in view of the practice in England, will the Local Government

Board take steps to get this decision set aside or to amend the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) There has been no such application before the Privy Council from the District Council mentioned in the Question, but the Privy Council recently decided in a case from Limerick that the additional half-acre must immediately adjoin the existing half-acre, and this decision will govern all future schemes of the kind. I am unable to speak as to the English practice, but the law on the subject is very different in the two countries.

Labourers' (Ireland) Acts—Definition of "Agricultural Labourer."

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork Co., Mid): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what length of time a man or woman should be working during any season of the year at agricultural work to be constituted an agricultural labourer within the meaning of the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The expression "agricultural labourer" is defined by the 4th Section of 49 and 50 Vict., cap. 59. There is no period of time, such as suggested, prescribed by statute.

Cork Model School.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Commissioners of National Education have ordered the Technical Committee of Cork to withdraw from the Model School, the partial use of which was allowed them; and whether, seeing that a considerable sum had been spent to meet the Commissioners' requirements, he will consent that the correspondence relating to this matter shall be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) In February last the Commissioners granted to the committee, as a temporary arrangement, the use of a portion of the Model School building at Cork. Some minor alterations, necessary for the temporary occupation of the premises, were carried out with the approval of the Commissioners. It appears, however, that extensive structural alterations to the building are now contemplated by the committee, which clearly point to an intention to permanently occupy the premises. The Commissioners, in the circumstances, have given to the committee the notice referred to in the first part of the Question. It is understood that the committee has acquired commodious premises in another part of the city. I do not propose to lay upon the Table the correspondence that has taken place in the matter.

Roscommon Cattle Fair—Railway Arrangements.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Department of Agriculture in Ireland has been called to the inconvenience caused at Roscommon Railway Station, at the cattle fair held there on the 5th of December, by the failure of the railway company to provide the supply of waggons necessary to carry away the cattle; whether the Department was represented at this fair by an inspector; and, if so, has he reported on the circumstances; and whether the Department has established a railway section; and, if so, will he state its duties.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The answer to the first two queries is in the negative. The inspectors have attended a large number of fairs throughout the country during the past year, but it is impossible for them to be present at every fair. The Department is aware that, owing to the exceptionally heavy traffic in animals which has occurred in Ireland this year, some railway companies have had difficulty in meeting the largely-increased demand for cattle trucks on different occasions and at different places. The Department has established a branch in connection with the transit of animals. Details of the work performed through the medium of this branch will be found in the first and second Annual Reports issued by the Department and presented to Parliament.

Irish Education—Publication of Inspectors' Reports.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National

Education are prepared to publish for the year ending 31st August, 1902, all the Reports of their district and head inspectors as to their districts, giving in each case the name of the district and of the inspector making the Report; and can he explain why the Resident Commissioner has published only some of these Reports, and has omitted the names.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Reports of the senior and district inspectors as to their respective districts were for the year ended 31st August, 1901, and not for the year ended 31st August, 1902 These Reports are not published by the Commissioners in their entirety. The chief inspectors have embodied, however, in their General Reports for the year ended 31st December, 1901, extracts from the Reports for that year of the senior and district inspectors, and these extracts bear the names of the inspectors from whose Reports they are taken. The chief inspectors' Reports will be found in Section 1 of the Appendix to the last Report of the Commissioners, recently presented to Parliament. As will be seen on reference to this appendix, the Commissioners desire it to be distinctly understood that they do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed in these Reports, nor do they feel called upon to adopt any suggestions they may contain.

Irish National School Teacher's Grievance.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education can explain in the case of the principal teacher of school, Roll No. 13,141, District 21, why the amount added to his consolidated salary, paid on 5th September, 1901, has been since denied to him; and whether he will have the balance forwarded to this teacher.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The additional payment made to this teacher in September, 1901, was an equivalent grant in lieu of results fees for his services as an extra teacher in a neighbouring girls' school, where he taught algebra and book-keeping as extra subjects to the girls prior to the introduction of the new system. Algebra and book-keeping are no longer extra subjects for which special fees can be paid, and the Commissioners are now considering whether they can continue an equivalent grant in this and other cases for work which the teachers are no longer required to perform.

Naval Ammunition—Cap Shells.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what proportion of the shell now on board His Majesty's ships is capped shell; whether he has any information showing that the newer form of cap now adopted for foreign navies has been proved by experiment to increase the penetrating power of projectiles striking at all angles; and what steps are being taken to provide all His Majesty's ships with these caps without delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The matter referred to is regarded as of a confidential nature, and in the public interests it is undesirable to supply the information asked for.

Navy Boilers.—H.M.S. "Niobe," "Furious" and "Pactolus."

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state what was the condition of the boilers of the cruisers "Niobe," "Furious" and "Pactolous" after taking part in the recent manœuvres in the Mediterranean?

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The "Niobe" has been four years in commission and requires a complete refit, which is now proceeding. The boilers of the "Furious" are in need of considerable repair, and will shortly be put in hand for thorough refit. A portion of the tubes of the "Pactolus" were renewed some months ago, and it has now been necessary to renew a portion of the remaining tubes, and to effect other repairs in connection with the boilers.

Old Dean Common, Surrey—War Office Lease.

MR. LEIGH-BENNETT (Surrey, Chertsey): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state when the lease of the land known as

Old Dean Common, lying between Bagshot and Camberley, Surrey, granted by His Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests to the War Department, will expire; whether, notwithstanding such lease, it is in contemplation to let the portion of Old Dean having a frontage to the London and Southampton Road for building purposes; whether any rights of common or other rights of a public nature (or privileges analogous thereto) exist over the land in question; and whether, before such letting is finally decided on, consideration will be given to the views of residents in Bagshot, Camberley, and other adjoining places who will be affected thereby.

(*Answered by Mr. Hayes Fisher.*) The lease of the heath and woodland, including Old Dean Common, granted to the War Department, is for a term of 21 years, to expire on the 5th January, 1923, determinable by either party at the end of the first seven or fourteen years on giving six months notice, and determinable also as to a strip half a mile in depth from the Bagshot Road, by the Commissioner of Woods at any time on giving one month's notice. This latter stipulation was made in order that the Commissioner of Woods might be in a position to let the land for building purposes. There are no rights of common or public rights over the land, which was purchased by the Crown upwards of 40 years ago. In making the purchase, consideration was given to the availability of the land for building. A good deal of land fronting the road and belonging to other owners has been appropriated for building purposes, and the Commissioner of Woods does not propose to consult the residents as to the disposal of the Crown lands in his charge.

Naval Construction—Armour Contracts under Current Year's Programme.

MR. JAMES HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he is in a position to give any further information with regard to orders for the armour required for the dockyard-built battleship and cruiser included in the naval programme of the current financial year.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Tenders have been invited, and are now under consideration, in respect of the greater part of the armour for the dockyard-built battleship. Tenders for the remainder of this armour, and also for the armour for the dockyard-built cruiser, will be invited shortly.

H.M.S. "Empress of India."—Crew's Leave.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that the crew of H.M.S. "Empress of India" is mainly composed of men who live either in Ireland or in the counties of Devon and Cornwall, it would be possible to allow this ship to return to Devonport for the purpose of giving the crew Christmas leave, instead of Portland, to save expense to the men in reaching their respective homes.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) I think the hon. Member must have been misinformed, as the decision to retain the "Empress of India" at Portland for the Christmas leave was only arrived at in consequence of detailed information from the ship showing that the bulk of the ship's company do not belong to Devon and Cornwall, but to other parts of the United Kingdom in readier communication with Weymouth than with Devonport.

South African War—Medals for Naval Brigade.

MR. KEARLEY: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the seamen and Marines engaged in South Africa up to February, 1901, are entitled to receive the King's medal for their services similar to the Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) I am not quite clear as to the meaning of the hon. Member's Question, as the Army Order on the subject of the King's medal provides that service in South Africa in the earlier stages of the war shall not qualify for the award of the King's medal in the case of the Army, unless combined with subsequent service on or after the 1st January, 1902. If the hon. Member will communicate with me privately, and will explain why he refers to the date February, 1901, which is not mentioned in the Army Order, I shall be glad to give him any information that I can.

St. Louis International Exposition, 1903.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state what arrangements have been made for British representation at the St. Louis Exposition as regards space for commercial displays; and will he explain why a Royal Commission has not been appointed in connection therewith.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The question is still under consideration, and I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject at present.

Uganda and Beira Railways.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he will state the cost per mile up to the present of the Uganda Railway; whether this sum was paid in cash, in debentures, or in ordinary stock of the railway; the cost per mile, excluding re-gauging, of the Beira Railway; whether this sum was paid in cash, in debentures, or stock; and, if in either of the two latter, what was the issue price of the stock.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The cost per mile of the Uganda Railway up to the 1st September, the latest date for which audited accounts have been received, was £8,447. If the hon Member will refer to the Uganda Railway Act, 1896, he will see that the money was issued from the Consolidated Fund. The Beira Railway is the property of a private company, and not under the Foreign Office. I am unable, therefore, to give the information asked for.

Crown Agents' Salaries and Commissions —Uganda Railway Commission Payments.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will give a Return giving the names of the Crown Agents to whom the £22,778 was paid by way of commission, the amount paid to each Agent, the services rendered by each Agent for said commission, and the salary, in addition to the commission, paid to each such Agent.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the sum of £22,778 which has been paid as commission to the Crown Agents by the Uganda Railway Committee was paid as commission on the price of material purchased by them for the railway, or as a commission on the total expenditure on the railway; whether he can state what fixed salaries have been paid to the Crown Agents since the construction of the railway commenced; and whether any, and, if any, what, additions of salary have been allowed to those members of the Uganda Railway Committee who were, at the time of their appointment on the Committee, permanent civil or military servants of the Crown.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The names of the Crown Agents are to be found in the Colonial Office List. They are paid fixed salaries sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The sum of £22,778 is the amount which has been paid to the Crown Agents under the one per cent. charge which they are authorised to make on all supplies and materials shipped by them. The sum arising from this percentage forms a part of the revenue out of which the office is maintained. The Crown Agents personally receive no commission in addition to their salaries. The question as to the amount of the salaries should be addressed to the Colonial Office. No salary has been paid to any member of the Railway Committee who at the time of appointment was a permanent civil or military servant of the Crown.

Uganda Railway—Coolie and Native Labour.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will state the number of coolies employed on the work of construction on the Uganda Railway, and the number of natives employed thereon; and will he say whether coolies have been imported before for working on the making of railways in Africa, and the respective cost of the coolie and of the native per head.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) For the first part of the Question I would refer the hon. Member to the Report presented to Parliament in Africa, No. 4, of 1902, at page 2. As far as I am aware, Indian coolies have not been before employed on African railways. Native labourers are paid according to the amount of work done. The Indian coolie is not so paid, and a comparison, therefore, would present considerable difficulties, but the Indian coolie is said to be the more efficient.

Beira Railway—Engineers' Certificate.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Beira Railway was constructed under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the engineers of the Beira Company, namely, Sir George Bruce, Sir Douglas Fox, and Sir Charles Metcalfe; and whether, before that railway was taken over from the contractors, the engineers certified as to its efficiency and workmanship.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) I would suggest that the hon. Member should apply to the Beira Railway Company for this information, with which the Foreign Office is not concerned.

Strength and Composition of Military Forces during South African War.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, before again submitting any estimates for the consideration of the House, he will lay upon the Table a Return or statement showing the strength and composition of the military forces at home and on each foreign station, other than South Africa, on the 31st December, 1899, 1900, and 1901 respectively; or whether he will in some other way inform Parliament of the numerical strength and composition of the military forces quartered elsewhere than in South Africa on those dates.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I do not think that any advantage would be gained by the special Returns proposed in the Question.

Mounted Infantry.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St George's): To ask the Secretary of State for War, in view of the services rendered by mounted riflemen during the late war in South Africa, will he state whether it is proposed to add to the number of regiments of Mounted Infantry now shown in the Army List, and will those officers and men who have gained experience on this duty during the war, be afforded opportunities for becoming permanently attached to this arm of the service; will he state how many regiments of Mounted Infantry it is proposed to maintain on the permanent establishment, and how many such regiments will be retained in South Africa; and will he consider the expediency of organising a special branch of this arm of the service for scouting purposes.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The hon. Member is requested kindly to refer to a reply given to a Question on this subject put by the hon. Member for the Heywood Division of Lancashire on the 10th instant.† The number of companies to be maintained in South Africa has not yet been settled.

Troops Quartered in Belfast and Newry Barracks.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state for what period no troops have been stationed in the Victoria Barracks, Belfast; and can he explain why troops are being moved from Belfast to Newry and outlying stations.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Victoria Barracks at Belfast are always in part occupation by the depôt of the Royal Irish Rifles. The 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers are now in these barracks, recently returned from South Africa. The general officer commanding Third Army Corps has found it necessary, on a point of accommodation, to send a detachment to Newry.

Somaliland Operations—Arrest of a Native Spy in Berbera.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact of a native arrested in Berbera on suspicion of being a spy of the Mullah, who denied the charge, but eventually, under punishment, confessed that he was a spy; and whether he can say if the punishment was inflicted for the purpose of obtaining the confession, what was the nature of the punishment, and by whose orders it was inflicted.

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† See preceding volume, page 653.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No information on this matter has reached the War Office.

Promotion of Officers serving in South Africa.

MR. MASSEY-MAINWARING (Finsbury, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether officers promoted during the South African war were exempted from passing the examination for promotion; and, if so, whether officers promoted to brevet rank, and who performed the duties of Field Officers in South Africa, may be exempted in like manner.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Officers serving in South Africa have been held to be exempt from examination for promotion up to 30th November, 1902; this rule applies to substantive rank only. They will be considered eligible for selection for provisional promotion up to 31st May, 1903, being required to pass examination at the earliest opportunity. Officers with brevet rank come under Article 21A of the Pay Warrant, under which an officer may be exempted from examination on the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, if he has been promoted for distinguished service or shows marked ability and gallantry in the field. Officers who produce certificates that they have satisfactorily commanded a mobile force of not less than 500 men for three months in the face of the enemy between 11th October, 1899, and 31st May, 1902, will be exempted from examination for higher rank.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

That they agree to the Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords to the "Education (England and Wales) Bill," and do not insist on their Amendment to which the Commons have disagreed; and they agree to the Consequential Amendment made by this House to the Bill.

ROYAL ASSENT COMMISSION.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and the Royal Assent was given to—

1. Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2) Act, 1902.
2. Patents Act, 1902.
3. Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902.
4. Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1902.
5. Osborne Estate Act, 1902.
6. Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902.
7. Mail Ships Act, 1902.
8. Militia and Yeomanry Act, 1902.
9. Education Act, 1902.
10. Metropolis Water Act, 1902.
11. Uganda Railway Act, 1902.
12. Glasgow Corporation (Water and General) Order Confirmation Act, 1902.

And afterwards His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands).

After which the LORD CHANCELLOR said—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's Name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the Seventeenth day of February next."

End of the Third Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward VII.

[APPENDICES.]

APPENDIX.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CXVI.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) House of Lords.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2)	*Lord Ashbourne*	Read 3^a and passed 5th Dec. (2) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)
*Education (England and Wales)	*Duke of Devonshire*	Second Reading 5th Dec. (2) Committee 9th Dec. (333) ,, 10th ,, (537) ,, 11th ,, (770) Report 13th ,, (1061) Read 3^a and passed 15th Dec. (1109) Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments agreed 17th Dec. (1466) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)
*Expiring Laws Continuance		Read 2^a and Committee negatived 10th Dec. (537) Read 3^a and passed 11th Dec. (769) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)
*Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2)	*Lord Ashbourne*	Read 1^a 12th Dec. (977) ,, 2^a 13th Dec. (1103) Committee and Report 15th Dec. (1195) Royal Assent, 18th Dec. (1605)
*London Water	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Read 1^a 10th Dec. (642) ,, 2^a 12th ,, (982) Committee 15th Dec. (1145) Report read 3^a and passed 16th Dec. (1290) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)
*Mail Ships		Read 1^a 11th Dec. (898) ,, 2^a 12th ,, (978) Committee and Report 13th Dec. (1104) Read 3^a and passed 15th Dec. (1195) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)

A. HOUSE OF LORDS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Militia and Yeomanry	*Earl of Hardwicke*	Read 1^a 12th Dec. (977) „ 2^a 15th „ (1191) Committee Report Read 3^a and passed 16th Dec. (1295) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)
*Osborne Estate		Read 1^a 12th Dec. (977) „ 2^a 13th „ (1104) Committee Report Read 3^a and passed 15th Dec. (1195) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)
*Patent Law Amendment		Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1605)
*Uganda Railway	*Marquess of Lansdowne*	Read 1^a, 2^a, Committee Report Read 3^a and passed 17th Dec. (1461)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2)	*Mr. Wyndham*	Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1642)
*Bankers (Ireland) Act Reap	*Mr. Wyndham*	Bill withdrawn 9th Dec. (501)
*Education (England and Wales)	*Mr. A. J. Balfour*	Consideration of Lords Amendment 16th Dec. (1345) (1408) Consideration of Lords Amendment 17th Dec. (1515) (1571) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1642)
*Expiring Law Continuance	*Mr. Austen Chamberlain*	Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1642)
*Fisheries (Ireland)	*Mr. Wyndham*	Bill withdrawn 9th Dec. (501)
*Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2.)	*Mr. Wyndham*	Report Read 3^a and passed 12th Dec. (1032) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1642)
*London Water	*Mr. Walter Long*	Committee 5th Dec. (142) Committee 8th Dec. (245) (295) Report 10th Dec. (671) (725) Read 3° and passed 10th Dec. (742) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1642)

Title of Bill	Brought in by	Progress.
*Mail Ships	*Sir Robt. Finlay*	Read 2° 9th Dec. (500) Committee Report Read 3° and passed 10th Dec. (768) Royal Assent 18th Dec.(1643)
*Militia and Yeomanry	*Mr. Brodrick*	Read 2° 9th Dec. (459) Committee 11th Dec. (959) Report Read 3° and passed 12th Dec. (1057) Royal Assent 18th Dec. (1642)
*Osborne Estate	*Mr. Ritchie*	Committee 11th Dec. (972) Report Read 3° and passed 12th Dec. (1057) Royal Assent 18th Dec.(1642)
*Patent Law Amendment	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	Lords Amendments Considered 9th Dec. (500) Royal Assent 18th Dec.(1642)
*Uganda Railway	*Mr. A. J. Balfour*	Read 2° 12th Dec. (1058) Committee Report 15th Dec. (1225) Read 3° and passed 16th Dec. (1456) Royal Assent 18th Dec.(1642)

INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

SIXTEENTH VOLUME OF SESSION, 1902.

DECEMBER 5—*DECEMBER* 18.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENTS AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *Com.* = Committee *Con.* = Consideration. Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in the Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote. Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

Aberdeen

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  - *Qs. Dec. 16*, 1324, *Dec. 18*, 1610.

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- Bushey Park—Concession of Land to the Tramways Co., alleged, *Dec. 17*, 1475.
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  - General Post Office, Insanitary Condition of—Report of Home Office Inspector, *Dec. 17*, 1472.
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Kilbride, Mr. D., Trial of at Maryborough Assizes—Number of Roman Catholic Jurors ordered to stand aside.
Qs. Dec. 15, 1220; *Dec. 18*, 1614.

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Q. *Dec. 17*, 1507.

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Q. *Dec. 8*, 213.

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Q. *Dec. 18*, 1632.

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Hill - Street Sub - Postmastership, Reasons for Removal of Mr. John Beirne.
Q. Dec. 11, 920.

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Q. Dec. 10, 644.

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Q. Dec. 9, 440.

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Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Lords' Amendts. Dec. 17*, 1536.

Vaccination Act of 1898 — Legislation with a view to extending duration of, *Dec. 16*, 1338.

Pretoria
Field Force Canteen—Contracts for Supply of Provisions and Beverages, Regulations as to
Q. Dec. 15, 1203.

Pretyman, Mr. E. G. [Suffolk, Woodbridge]
Naval Officers—Instruction of Officers, New Regulations, *Dec. 8*, 227.

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Limerick Prison—Treatment of Mr. T. Flanagan, Report of Inquiry Presented, *Dec. 15*, 1105, 1106.

Mullingar — Handing over Disused Premises to Westmeath County Council, proposed.
Q. Dec. 10, 647.

Private Bills
Number of Private Bills introduced into the House of Commons and passed in Session of 1902 — Return Ordered, *Dec. 9*, 438—Presented *Dec. 10*, 644.

Private Legislation Procedure, Scotland
Number of Draft Provisional Orders reported on by Commissioners in Sessions of 1901 and 1902—Return Ordered, *Dec. 19*, 435.

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act
Draft Provisional Orders reported on by Commissioners in Sessions of 1901 and 1902—Return Ordered, *Dec. 9*, 435—Presented, *Dec. 16*, 1320.

Privilege
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Public Records
Close and Patent Rolls, Errors in Welsh Spelling — Submitting to competent Welsh Scholar before publication proposed.
Q. Dec. 11, 906.

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Q. Dec. 11, 900.

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Cattle Shows, Veterinary Inspection—Employment of Veterinary Surgeon of the Agriculture Department instead of Local Surgeon.
Q. Dec. 18, 1619.

Queensland
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Qs. Lord Stanmore, *Dec. 17*, 1459, 1460; Earl of Onslow, 1459.

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Q. Dec. 17, 1477.

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Arrest of on board the "Scotia" on Congo Waters, alleged.
Q. Dec. 16, 1330.

Rae Estate, Killorglin
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Q. Dec. 17, 1507.

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Achnasheen, Accident near—Board of Trade Inquiry, proposed.
Q. Dec. 10, 657.

Bariavie to Mallaig Railway—Condition and Working of, Rates and Charges, Receipts and Expenditure, etc.—Board of Trade Report, Presented, *Dec. 15*, 1105, 1196.

Light Railways.

Derbyshire—Acquisition of Railways by the County Council, Granting Special Facilities, proposed.
Q. Dec. 16, 1328.

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Q. Dec. 12, 1026.

Leitrim—Light Railway, Construction in—Giving effect to Resolution of County Council, proposed.
Q. Dec. 10, 665.

Newcastle and Ballyrooney Railway, Ireland—Date of Completion of Line.
Q. Dec. 17, 1510.

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China Operations of 1901—Granting Clasp for Tientsin, proposed, *Dec. 9*, 448.

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South African War Medals—Queen's and King's South African War Medals—Reconsideration of Regulations as to, proposed, *Dec. 9*, 450.

War Office Clerks serving during the South African War, Eligibility for Imperial Service Order, *Dec. 15*, 1197.

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Q. Dec. 8, 213.

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Q. Dec. 16, 1341.

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Q. Dec. 9, 455.

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Close and Patent Rolls, Errors in Welsh Spelling—Submitting to competent Welsh scholar before publication, proposed.
Q. Dec. 11, 906.

Historical Manuscripts, *see* that title.

Redesdale, Lord

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. Dec. 11*, 872.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland.

Accounts—Failure to present Audited Accounts.
Q. Dec. 15, 1204.

Remnant, Mr. [Finsbury, Holborn]

London Water Bill, *con. Dec. 10*, 707, 708.

Ribblesdale, Lord

Education (England and Wales) Bill, 2R. *Dec. 5*, 95; *com. Dec. 9*, 377, 402, 403, 422; *Dec. 11*, 806, 861; *con. Dec. 13*, 1079; 3R. *Dec. 15*, 1141.

London Water Bill, *com. Dec. 15*, 1187, 1188, 1189.

Richards, Mr. H. C. [Finsbury, E.]

Bankruptcy Acts, Criminal Prosecutions under—Number of Counts to be inserted in Indictments, Limitation of, proposed, *Dec. 9*, 443.

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Post Office, Sunday Work—Dismissal of Postman for refusing to work on Sunday, alleged.
Q. Dec. 17, 1504.

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Q. Dec. 17, 1477.

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Mullingar—Delay in completion of Range.
Q. Dec. 9, 446.

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Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. Dec. 10*, 638.

Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.—*Chancellor of the Exchequer* [Croydon]

Post Office Saving Banks, Reduction of Interest—Effect on Accounts opened in Irish Post Offices, *Dec. 10*, 665.

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St. John's Church Day Schools—Case of Alice Keates.
Q. Dec. 15, 1218.

Roads, Scotland
Achnahaird and Altaudhu, Construction of Road between, Progress, etc.
Q. Dec. 8, 206.
Applecross—Construction of Road and Bridge, Refusal of the Congested Districts Board to provide Grant-in-aid.
Q. Dec. 9, 453.
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Q. Dec. 8, 206.
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Q. Dec. 8, 205.

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Somaliland Operations—Arrest of Native Spy on Berbera, Nature of punishment inflicted, *Dec. 18*, 1640.
Uganda Railway Bill, *com. Dec. 15*, 1239.
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Roberts, Mr. H. [Denbighshire, W.]
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Argentine Cattle, Importation into Great Britain for Slaughter—Progress of Negotiations with the Argentine Government, *Dec. 17*, 1503.

Robertson, Lord
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Robertson, Mr. E. [Dundee]
Africa, South, British Troops in—Cost per week, *Dec. 8*, 218.
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Robertson, Mr. E.—*cont.*
Sugar—*cont.*
Jamaica—Relative Value of Sugar Exports, as compared with the total Exports, *Dec. 15*, 1217.
West Indian Exports to the United States, Protection from European Competition by American Countervailing Duties — Effect of Brussels Convention, *Dec. 15*, 1217.

Robertson, Mr. H. [Hackney]
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Robson, Mr. W. S. [South Shields]
Army—Commissions granted during the War, Memorandum relating to Examinations, *Dec. 15*, 1209.

Roche, Mr. J.
Imprisonment of—Letter to the Speaker' *Dec. 18*, 1609.

Rochester, Bishop of
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. Dec. 9*, 372; *Dec. 10*, 600, 603, 635; *Dec. 11*, 788, 818, 893; *con. Dec. 13*, 1064, 1071; 3R. *Dec. 15*, 1121, 1125.

Rockford Estate, Connemara
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Q. Dec. 9, 445.

Rollit Sir A. [Islington, S.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Lords' Amendts. Dec. 17*, 1560, 1569, 1584.

Roscommon
Cattle Fair—Inadequate Railway Arrangements.
Q. Dec. 18, 1632.
Hill-street, Sub-postmastership, Reasons for removal of Mr. John Beirne.
Q. Dec. 11, 920.

Rosebery, Earl of
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Education (England and Wales) Bill—Free Churches Deputation, Earl of Rosebery's Speech.
References to, in Debate on the Education Bill, Dec. 9, 419, 420; *Dec. 10*, 634.

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Achnahaird and Altaudhu, Construction of Road between, Progress, etc.
Q. Dec. 8, 206.
Applecross — Congested Districts Board refusing to provide Grant-in-Aid for Construction of Road and Bridge.
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Q. Dec. 8, 205.

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Rumbold, Sir H.
Official Secrets, Disclosure of by Sir H. Rumbold in recently published book and Article in the *National Review*.
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Birr Post Office, Erection of—Injuries to Mr. Morrison's premises, Compensation, etc., *Dec. 8*, 210.

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China and Russia—Position of affairs as to Russian Concession at Tientsin.
Q. Dec. 11, 912.
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Q. Dec. 8, 228.
Sugar.
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Q. Dec. 12, 1027.
Bounties, Brussels Convention Commercial Treaty, British Government prepared to denounce in event of Difficulties arising in connection with Most-Favoured-Nation Clause, etc.
Qs. Mr. G. Bowles, *Dec. 5*, 133, 134; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1317.
Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Great Britain of 1859—Effect on the Brussels Sugar Convention.
Q. Dec. 5, 125.

Rutland, Duke of
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. Dec. 9*, 349; *Dec. 10*, 549; *Dec. 11*, 829.

St. Asaph, Bishop of
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St. John's Church, Sutton-on-Plym
Day Schools—Ritualistic Practices, Case of Alice Keates.
Q. Dec. 15, 1218.

St. Louis
International Exposition, 1903—Arrangements for British Representation.
Q. Dec. 18, 1637.

St. Mels Cathedral, Ardagh
State of Ruins—Steps taken to preserve Ancient Monuments.
Q. Dec. 11, 920.

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Studdert Remount Case—Refusal of the Crown to produce Col. St. Quentin before the Grand Jury, Bill thrown out by the Jury, Action of the Government, etc.
Qs. Dec. 8, 219, 220, 221, 222.

Salisbury, Bishop of
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. Dec. 9*, 368, 379; *Dec. 10*, 585, 586, 634; *Dec. 11*, 798, 875.

Samuel, Mr. H. S. [Tower Hamlets, Limehouse]
London Water Bill, *com. Dec. 5*, 149; *Dec. 10*, 702, 745.

Samuel, Mr. Herbert [Yorkshire, W.R., Cleveland]
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Sandhurst Military College
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India—Currency.
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Sassoon, Sir E.—*cont.*

Post Office Savings Bank Deposits—Rate of Interest, Widening Area of Investment, etc.
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Os. Duke of Devonshire, Earl Spencer, *Dec. 10*, 641.

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Qs. *Dec. 8*, 215; *Dec. 11*, 909; *Dec. 17*, 1510.

Schœman, Mr. J. H.

Africa, South—Trial of Mr. Schœman by Martial Law, Report of Select Committee of Cape House of Assembly.
Qs. *Dec. 8*, 219; *Dec. 9*, 451.

Schwann, Mr. C. E. [Manchester, N.]

Argentine Cattle, Importation into Great Britain for Slaughter—Progress of Negotiations with the Argentine Government, *Dec. 16*, 1322.

Imprisonment of Mr. R. M. Newton for Fraud, Acquittal of Mr. Newton—Question of Compensation, *Dec. 11*, 908.

Manchester Post Office Electric Lighting Staff—Grievances, *Dec. 16*, 1329.

Venezuela, British and German claims against.
Attack by British Fleet on Venezuelan Fleet, sinking of Gunboats by the Germans—Responsibility of the British Government, etc., *Dec. 15*, 1212.
Delay in Presentation of Papers, Complaints of British Government against Venezuela, Attitude of the United States, etc., *Dec. 15*, 1245, 1262, 1265.

Scotland

Secretary—Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Under-Secretary—Sir C. Scott-Moncrieff.

Lord Advocate—Rt. Hon. A. G. Murray.

Solicitor General—Mr. C. Scott-Dickson.

Achnasheen, Railway Accident near—Board of Trade Inquiry, proposed.
Q. *Dec. 10*, 657.

Banavie to Mallaig Railway—Condition and Working of, Rates and Charges, etc.—Board of Trade Report Presented, *Dec. 15*, 1105, 1196.

Scotland—*cont.*

Bee-keeping—Facilities provided by the Congested Districts Board for Instruction, etc.
Q. *Dec. 10*, 657.

Ben Wyvis Grazings—Objections to Acquisition for Extension of Wyvis Deer Forest.
Q. *Dec. 9*, 454.

Congested Districts Board—for collective headings, *see* title Congested Districts Board.

Continuation Classes Grant—Amount to be expended in Crofting Counties.
Q. *Dec. 15*, 1199.

Culloden Estate, Inverness-shire—Eviction of Crofter Tenants, Extension of Benefits of Crofter's Act of 1886, proposed.
Q. *Dec. 9*, 455.

Education—for collective heading, *see* title Education.

Fisheries—for collective heading, *see* title Fisheries.

Harris Tweed Industry—Distribution of Hand Looms, proposed.
Q. *Dec. 16*, 1325.

Lewis, Island of, *see* that title.

Mallaig Pier Breakwater—Delay in construction.
Q. *Dec. 9*, 452.

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Orkney, Free Rod Fishing on Foreshores—Date of Issue of Regulations as to Public Rights.
Q. *Dec. 11*, 918.

Roads, *see* that title.

Ross-shire, *see* that title.

Spirits, Stock in Bond, on 31st March, 1901, Total Spirits Bonded and cleared from Bond from March, 1901, to March, 1902—Return presented, *Dec. 9*, 434.

Stornoway — Fishermen's Dwellings, Allocation of Sites.
Q. *Dec. 17*. 1470.

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Wick School Board District—Extension of Area, proposed.
Q. *Dec. 15*, 1200.

Seamen, Merchant Service

Savings Banks, Money Orders and Transmission of Wages — Account Presented, *Dec. 16*, 1289, 1321.

Seats in the House of Commons

Appropriation of, before Prayers, Removal of Card by Dr. Thompson.
Os. Mr. S. Macneill, Mr. Speaker, Mr. T. M. Healy, Dr. Thompson, *Dec. 16*, 1322.

Seely, Maj. J. E. B. [Isle of Wight]

Militia and Yeomanry Bill, 2R. *Dec. 9*, 478.

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Selborne, Earl of—*First Lord of the Admiralty*
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Select Committees
Number appointed in Session of 1902 Names of Members serving on, etc.—Return Ordered, *Dec. 9*, 437—Presented, *Dec. 10*, 644.

Session of 1903
Date of assembling.
Q. Dec. 17, 1514.

Shaftesbury, Earl of
Education (England and Wales, Bill, *com. Dec. 10*, 555, 589, 591.

Shandangan Petty Sessions
Lynch *v.* Howard, Case of—Authority of Clerk of Sessions to summon certain Magistrates.
Q. Dec. 11, 909.

Shanghai
International Troops—Date of Withdrawal of German Forces, etc.
Q. Dec. 8, 215, 230.

Shannon Development Company
Subsidy paid to—Terms of Agreement.
Q. Dec. 18, 1617.

Sheehan, Mr. D. [Cork Co., Mid]
Labourers' (Ireland) Acts—Definition of Agricultural Labourer, *Dec. 18*, 1631.

Sheriffs, Ireland
County and Borough Sheriffs, Payment of Expenses — Placing on an equal footing, proposed.
Q. Dec. 17, 1471.

High Sheriffs — Officer responsible for investigating and reporting to the Crown on the eligibility and qualification of Candidates.
Q. Dec. 17, 1509.

Shipman, Dr. J. G. [Northampton]
Army Reserve Officers — Number of Officers promoted after being called to Army Service in May, 1900, Pay, etc., *Dec. 11*, 911.

Shoreditch Borough Council
London Water Bill, Protest against.
Os. Capt. Norton, *Dec. 10*, 686, 687.

Sidmouth
Fishing Nets Damaged by Naval Torpedo Flotilla—Question of Compensation.
Q. Dec. 9, 439.

Sierra Leone
Railway — Material, Names of Firms invited to tender.
Q. Dec. 15, 1203.

Sinclair, Mr. L. [Essex, Romford]
Army — Under-age Recruit, Case of F. Frost, *Dec. 10*, 649.

Sinclair, Mr. L.—*cont.*
Trade and Commerce, Administration of in principal countries of the world, and powers conferred on Ministers of Commerce—Return proposed, *Dec. 10*, 652; *Dec. 15*, 1198.

Sittings of the House
Exemption from Standing Order—Motion (Mr. A. J. Balfour), *Dec. 16*, 1342.

Number of days on which the House sat in Session 1902, Total number of Hours occupied, etc.—Return ordered, *Dec. 9*, 437; Presented, *Dec. 10*, 644.

Saturday Sitting of the House of Lords to continue the discussion on the Education Bill.
Os. Duke of Devonshire, Earl Spencer, *Dec. 10*, 641.

Session of 1903—Date of re-assembling.
Q. Dec. 17, 1514.

Skewes-Cox, Mr. T. [Surrey, Kingston]
Post Office Assistant Clerks' Retiring Pensions, *Dec. 17*, 1477.

Slave Trade
Uganda Railway—Effect in suppressing Slave Trade between Uganda and the Coast.
O. Mr. J. A. Pease, *Dec. 11*, 951.

Sloan, Mr. T. H. [Belfast, S.]
Ireland.
Belfast Post Office.
English Mail, Delay in Delivery — Steps taken to ensure prompt Delivery, *Dec. 9*, 440.
Telegraphists Appointment of Clerks from Provincial Offices, *Dec. 9*, 441.
Lynch *v.* Howard, Trial of case at Shandangan Petty Sessions—Authority of Clerk of Sessions to summon certain Magistrates, *Dec. 11*, 909.
National School Teachers.
Attendances of Assistant Teachers Alteration of Scale of Averages, proposed, *Dec. 9*, 446.
Facilities for Training—Arrangements for courses in Model Schools and other non-convent Schools, *Dec. 9*, 446.

Smith, Mr. A. H. [Herts. Hertford]
London Water Bill, *com. Dec. 8*, 284.

Smith, Mr. Parker [Lanark, Partick]
Uganda Railway Bill, *com, Dec. 15*, 1233.

Smith, Mr. W. F. D. [Strand, Westminister]
London Water Bill, *com. Dec. 5*, 161.

Soares, Mr. E. J. [Devonshire, Barnstaple]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, Lords Amendts., *Dec. 16*, 1402, 1414.

Sokoto

Niger Company's Treaties with the Emir of Sokoto Non-fulfilment of—Relations between the British Government and Sultans of Sokoto and Kano.
Qs. *Dec. 9*, 449, 450 ; *Dec. 16*, 1336, 1337, 1338.

Solicitor-General

Sir E. Carson.

Solicitor-General for Scotland

Mr. C. Scott-Dickson.

Somaliland

Military Operations against the Mad Mullah, Cost of.
Q. *Dec. 16*, 1334.

Native Spy, Arrest of, in Berbera, Nature of punishment inflicted.
Q. *Dec.* 18, 1640.

Transfer of Conduct of Operations to the War Office.
Qs. *Dec. 8*, 230, 231.

Soudan

Frontiers between Soudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea — Treaties between United Kingdom and Ethiopia, and United Kingdom and Italy, *Dec. 8*, 197, 204.

South African War

Charges against British Officers by Members of the Cape Parliament, Date of presenting Report.
Q. *Dec. 8*, 219.

Furlough Allowances for returning Troops.
Q. *Dec. 15*, 1206.

Medals, *see* that title.

Militia Officers serving with Corps other than their own—Special Outfit Allowance.
Q. *Dec. 11*, 911.

Strength and Composition of Forces at Home and at Foreign Stations during the War—Return proposed.
Q. *Dec. 18*, 1639.

Volunteers.

Officers with Army Rank—Omission of Names of Retired Officers from Army List, alleged.
Q. *Dec. 5*. 130.

Post Office Volunteers—Arrears of Salary during period of Active Service, Regulations as to Payment.
Q. *Dec. 11*, 905.

South Sea Islanders in Queensland

Repatriation of, by Queensland Government.
Qs. Lord Stanmore, *Dec. 17*, 1459, 1460 ; Earl of Onslow, 1459.

South-West Suburban Water Co.

Repayment to London Water Board of Sum paid for Rights of Lambeth Waterworks Co., proposed.
Debate on London Water (Re-committed) Bill, Dec. 8, 323.

Southwell, Bishop of

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. Dec. 9*, 376, 385 ; *com. Dec. 11*, 886.

Spain

Cable Licences, Expiration of—Establishment of Government Cables between Great Britain and Spain, proposed.
Q. *Dec. 16*, 1330.

Speaker—Rt. Hon. W. C. Gully [Carlisle]

Adjournment of the House from Friday to Monday, Motion for.

Closure, Question of, could not be discussed, *Dec. 5*, 140.

Range of Debate on this Motion for Adjournment was restricted—It was not in order to re-discuss matters which had been debated and decided—Attention had been called to "new" and "urgent" matters and the debate must now be restricted to those matters, *Dec. 5*, 140.

Right to urge Urgent Questions.

It was not like a Motion for Adjournment over Easter or Whitsuntide or any unusual Period, it was quite an ordinary proceeding, and the Speaker was not aware of any Rule, and was under the impression that it was an obsolete practice—He was very anxious not to interpose where any doubt could exist with regard to any opportunity of debate which might belong to the House, and therefore he would call on the Hon Member, *Dec. 5*, 131, 132.

Since 1856 there had been no Question of any debate on this Motion—In 1861 a Standing Order was made dealing with the Adjournment from Friday to Monday, and there was no record of a Motion like that suggested — The practice of raising irrelevant discussion upon this Motion was obsolete and would interfere with other Business, *Dec. 12*, 1031.

Amendments

Amendment to proposed Amendment —Irrelevant Proposal, having regard to the first words of the Amendment, *Dec. 17*, 1552.

Form of Amendment — The form would be to negative the word "one," and if the Member succeded in negativing "one," he may move to insert "two," *Dec. 10*, 698.

Lords Amendments

Consideration of Lords Amendments, No Amendment could be moved unless it were a purely consequential Amendment upon an Amendment of the Lords, *Dec. 17*, 1538.

[*cont.*

Speaker—*cont.*

- Amendments—*cont.*
  - Lords Amendments—*cont.*
    - Privilege *see* that subheading.
    - Underlined words within brackets and the statement in regard thereto that "it was proposed that these words should be omitted by the Commons"—The words had been inserted in accordance with a general arrangement made a long time ago between the Officers of the House of Lords and the Public Bill Office, with a view to conveying to the Commons the nature of the proposal—Some such notice was convenient, but in relation to a highly contentious measure like the Education Bill, the words used ought not to assume beforehand what the action of the House of Commons would be — Whether some other form of words could be devised for use in the future was a Question deserving consideration, *Dec. 16*, 1346.
  - Rates—Amendments which would modify existing Rating Arrangements and therefore were out of order on the Report Stage, *Dec. 12*, 1050, 1051.
    - Lords Amendments, Rule as to, differed—If the result of an Amendment by the Commons of a Lords Amendment was to create a charge which was not in the Bill when it went up to the Lords, that was perfectly legitimate—It had been done over and over again, *Dec. 16*, 1404, 1411.
  - Scope of Amendment—The Member was right in his contention, and if those lines were adhered to the discussion would be in order, *Dec. 17*, 1517, 1518.
- Clauses — Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill.
  - Clause providing that payments should not be made out of the Local Taxation Account, Introduction on Report Stage—It dealt with future appointments and increases only, and did not affect existing ones, and, therefore it was in order although very near the line, *Dec. 12*, 1037.
  - Clause relating to Disqualification of Justices of the Peace to act as Solicitors, was out of order, *Dec. 12*, 1043.
  - Members who had given notice of new clauses not being in their places, it was not in order for these clauses to be moved by other Members, *Dec. 12*, 1040.

Speaker—*cont.*

- Irrelevant Observations.
  - Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Dec. 16*, 1440; *Dec. 17*, 1537, 1571.
  - Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill, *Dec. 12*, 1041.
    - Time fixed for Report Stage—Discussion on Motion for adding a Clause to the Bill, *Dec. 12*, 1036, 1037.
  - London Water Bill, *Dec. 10*, 741.
  - Militia and Yeomanry Bill, *Dec. 9*, 473.
    - Good or Bad Measure, Question of, was not before the House—Question was whether the Debate should be adjourned, *Dec. 9*, 478.
  - Uganda Railway Vote—Discussing Pearl Fisheries on the Coast of the Protectorate, *Dec. 11*, 933.
- Members' Seats, Appropriation of—The practice was that in order to keep a seat the Member must be present at prayers—If a Member was not present at Prayers the card was not effectual, *Dec. 16*, 1322.
- Order, Point of—Church of Rome and Free Churches were not under the Crown—That was not a point of order, *Dec. 17*, 1550.
- Privilege—Lords Amendments to the Education Bill.
  - Amendment would have been out of order without the words at the end, but those words prevented any Breach of Privilege, *Dec. 16*, 1384.
  - No Breach of Privilege arose out of something done in the House of Commons—If the Lords send down a Bill to a Committee which contained no Breach of Privilege and the Commons did something to it to put it into a different condition, that could not be a Breach of the Privileges of the House of Commons, *Dec. 16*, 1403.
  - Rent, Apportionment of, in addition to Capital Expenditure — This involved an addition to the expenditure, the incidence of which was affected, it was therefore a Breach of Privilege, *Dec. 17*, 1579.—The same remarks applied to the Amendment which inserted "or rent" after Loans, *Dec. 17*, 1583.
- Questions.
  - Arguing as if it were a matter for discussion—It was not, *Dec. 8*, 243.
  - Notice of Questions, *Dec*, *8*, 238.
- Quoting Speeches from recent Debates in the House of Lords was not in order, *Dec. 16*, 1354, 1409.

[*cont.*

Speaker—*cont.*
Suspension of the Sitting at Ten Minutes past 4 o'clock—There was no other Business before the House at the Morning Sitting, the Sitting did not technically come to an end till 7.30, but with the permission of the House he would leave the Chair, and would return to it if any formal Business had to be transacted, such as receiving a Bill coming from the House of Lords, *Dec. 15*, 1245.
Unparliamentary Language—Members who disgrace the House, that was not a proper expression, and it must be withdrawn before the Member made any further observation, *Dec. 15*, 1254.

Spencer, Earl
Education (England and Wales) Bill. 2R, *Dec. 5*, 6, 10, 85; *com. Dec. 9th*, 348, 356, 369, 379, 386, 390, 405; *Dec. 10th*, 540, 546, 549, 554, 557, 569, 574, 615, 623, 625, 642; *Dec. 11th*, 775, 792, 798, 799, 833, 842, 846, 853, 856, 864, 867, 875, 878, 881, 882, 887, 889; *con. Dec. 13th*, 1066, 1084, 1088, 1100, 1101, 1102; 3R. *Dec. 15th*, 1109, 1125, 1126, 1129, 1130, 1138, 1139, 1140; Commons Amendments, *Dec. 17th*, 1466.
Uganda Railway Bill, 2R. *Dec. 17*, 1461, 1462, 1465.
Venezuela, British and German Claims against — Anglo-German Joint Naval Action, etc.
Coercive Measures to enforce Claims —Nature of further Measures to be taken, *Dec. 16*, 1289.
Information, Lack of, etc., *Dec. 15*, 1105, 1107, 1109.

Spiddal Pier, Galway
Amount expended on, Number of persons employed, etc.
Q. Dec. 9, 445.

Spillane, Anne
Sentence of Death at Guildford—Commutation, proposed.
Q. Dec. 18, 1623.

Spirit Trade
Bottling Establishments—Overtime for Women, Including Spirits in special exception list under the Factory Acts, proposed.
Q. Dec. 8, 207.
Scotland—Stock of Spirits in Bond on March 31, 1901, Total Spirits bonded and cleared from Bond from March, 1901, to March, 1902—Return Presented, *Dec. 9*, 434.

Stags
Hunting tame Stags with Hounds at Maidenhead and Dorking—Prohibition of, proposed.
Q. Dec. 10, 647.

Staines Reservoirs Company
Compensation to Directors for loss of position under London Water Bill.
Debate on London Water (Re-Committed) Bill, Dec. 8, 325–328.
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O. Mr. W. Long, *Dec. 8*, 274.

Stanhope, Earl
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London Water Bill, *com. Dec. 15*, 1164.

Stanley, Lord—*Financial Secretary to the War Office* [Lancashire, Westhoughton]
Inniskilling Fusiliers.
Date of return from South Africa, *Dec. 10*, 653.
Officers from English Regiments appointed to the Command over the heads of Officers of the Regiment, alleged, *Dec. 10*, 653.
Militia and Yeomanry Bill, 2R., *Dec. 9*, 500.
Mounted Infantry, Distribution of, *Dec 10*, 652.
Recruits, Special Recruits, Number enlisted since Jan. 1, 1902, *Dec. 10*, 652.
Yeomanry, Number still in South Africa, Date of Disbandment, etc., *Dec. 10*, 652.

Stanmore, Lord
Diplomatic Service—Publication of Information officially obtained by Members of the Service, *Dec. 8*, 203.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. Dec. 9*, 369; *Dec. 11*, 781; 3R., *Dec. 15*, 1118.
Queensland, Repartriation of South Sea Islanders, *Dec. 17*, 1459, 1460.

Stationary Office Contracts
Contractors obliged to take Materials from the Department, Delivery of Materials free of Charge, proposed.
Q. Dec. 17, 1506.

Stornaway
Fishermen's Dwellings — Allocation of Sites.
Q. Dec. 17, 1470.

Strachey, Sir E. [Somerset, S.]
Cider — Establishment of Standard for pure Cider, proposed, *Dec. 18*, 1624.
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Sugar
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Autro-Hungarian Cartel—Adoption of countervailing measures against, proposed.
Q. Dec. 10, 656.
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Qs. Dec. 8, 229.

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Brussels Convention—*cont.*
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Communications from Foreign Governments.
Qs. *Dec.* *17*, 1498, 1499; *Dec. 18*, 1613.
Correspondence with the Powers as to Effect of the Covention—Laying on the Table, etc.
Qs. *Dec. 15* 1216; *Dec. 17*, 1498, 1499; *Dec.* *18*, 1613.
Countervailing Duties contrary to most-favoured-nation Clause of Commercial Treaties—Effect on Treaty with Russia of 1859, Opinion of Law Officers of the Crown.
Qs. *Dec.* *5*, 126; *Dec. 15*, 1215.
Personal explanation (Mr. A. J. Balfour), *Dec. 11*, 921, 922.
Motion (Mr. G. Bowles) *Dec. 5*, 132; *Debate* [*Lords*] *Dec. 16*, 1314.
Colonies, Position of, under the Convention, 135, 141.
Commercial Treaties, Difficulties in connection with Most-favoured-nation Clause, 133, 135, 1314.
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Countervailing Duties—Adoption of Principle by United States and India, 1316.
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Q. *Dec. 9*, 458.
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Q. *Dec. 15*, 1214.

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Q. *Dec. 17*, 1499.
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Q. *Dec. 8*, 230.
Sugar imported from foreign countries which grant bounties—Requiring Certificates of Origin, proposed.
Q. *Dec. 9*, 442.
West Indian Exports to the United States, Protection from European Competition by American countervailing Duties — Effect of Brussels Convention.
Q. *Dec. 15*, 1217.
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Q. *Dec. 15*, 1199.
States between which and Great Britain Treaties exist containing the most-favoured-nation Clause.
Q. *Dec. 9*, 443.
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Q. *Dec. 12*, 1027.
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Q. *Dec. 12*, 1027.
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Cane Sugar Experiments—Publication of *précis* of information collected by Imperial Department of Agriculture.
Q. *Dec. 17*, 1472.
Jamaica—Relative Value of Sugar Exports, as compared with total Exports.
Q. *Dec. 15*, 1217.

Sullivan, Mr. D. [Westmeath, S.]
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Procedure—Loans for Uganda Railway, Extension of Practice of Voting Loans for Works that used to be borne on the Budget, etc.
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St. John's Church Day Schools—Ritualistic Practices, Case of Alice Keates.
Q. *Dec.* *15*, 1218.

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Q. *Dec.* *9*, 451.

Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. [Oxford University]
Army Clothing Contracts—Execution of in Factories and not by Outworkers, Clauses as to sweating, etc., *Dec.* *15*, 1205.
Cleveland Parliamentary Election, alleged Leaflet containing gross Mis-statement in regard to Education Bill—Inaccuracy of Mr. Talbot's Statement.
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Aldritt, Mr., Removal from Office of Justice of the Peace.
Q. *Dec*, *17*, 1476.

Taxes
Offices of Surveyors of Taxes—Increase in Clerical Staff, proposed.
Q. *Dec.* *10*, 651.

Taylor, Mr. A. [Liverpool, East Toxteth]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Lords Amendts.* *Dec.* *16*, 1376; *Dec.* *17*, 1537, 1539, 1550.
Liverpool Post Office.
Postmen qualifying as Telegraphists, Number declared efficient and retained, *Dec.* *9*, 440.
Telegraphists, Promotion out of turn. *Dec.* *9*, 440.

Taylor, Mr. T. C. [Lancashire, Radcliffe]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Lords Amendts. Dec.* *16*, 1413.

Telegraph Service
Central Office Staff.
Hours of Work—Extra Duties imposed on the Staff, alleged.
Q. *Dec.* *17*, 1486.
Saturday Modifications of Duty, Withdrawal of Privileges relating to.
Q. *Dec.* *11*, 904.
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Q. *Dec.* *16*, 1330.
Londonderry Telegraph Staff required to sign paper repudiating connection with paragraph in Telegraph *Chronicle*, alleged.
Q. *Dec.* *9*, 455.
Liverpool—Telegraphist promoted out of turn.
Q. *Dec.* *10*, 440.
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Q. *Dec.* *10*, 658.
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Q. *Dec.* *15*, 1222.
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Q. *Dec.* *18*, 1627.

Telephone Service
Tunbridge Wells Municipal Telephone System—Purchase by the National Telephone Company—Attitude of the Treasury.
Q. *Dec.* *11*, 915.

Thames Conservancy
London Water Board, Representation on. *Debate on London Water* (*Re-committed*) *Bill*, *Dec.* *8*, 149, 150, 188.
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Australian Commonwealth Labour Laws—Exclusion of English Hatters, *Dec.* *18*, 1610.
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Thompson, Dr. E. C. (Monaghan, N.)
Army Corps—Pay of Junior Officers in India, Delay in promulgating increased rates, *Dec.* *18*, 1622.
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Q. Dec. 15, 1200.

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Q. Dec. 9, 448.
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Training Ships
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Q. Dec. 11, 912.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony
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Petitions appealing against special disabilities and restrictions imposed on.
Q. Dec. 16, 1323.
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Q. Dec. 5, 129.
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Q. Dec. 15, 1203.
Stock in—Re-stocking with Cattle and Horses, Government Arrangements, Precautions against Cattle Diseases, etc.
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Q. Dec. 8, 214.
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  - *Debate* [*Lords*], *Dec. 12*, 978.

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- "Arethusa" and "Chichester," Training Ships—Number of Roman Catholic Boys received into the Navy from, *Dec. 11*, 912.
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- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Lords Amendts. Dec 16*, 1437.
- German Lottery Circulars distributed by Post—Prosecution of Offenders, proposed, *Dec.* 8, 233.
- Ireland.
  - Afforesting Waste Land—Representations of Irish Forestry Society, *Dec. 15*, 1221.
  - Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department-Itinerant Instructors, Regulations as to Appointment, Tests and Examinations, etc., *Dec. 15*, 1222.
  - Armagh—Assault on Roman Catholics by Orangemen, Proceedings against Orangemen, proposed, *Dec. 8*, 235.
  - Ballinrobe Estate, Purchase by the Congested Districts Board, alleged, *Dec. 15*, 1222.
  - Ballymote Lighting Arrangements—Memorial as to adoption of Acetylene Gas, *Dec. 9*, 557.
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    - Army Bread Contract given to Firm of Druggists and Chemists, *Dec. 12*, 1028.
    - Re-valuation of—Names, Qualifications, and Salaries of Revising Officers, Return proposed, *Dec. 5*, 130; *Dec. 12*, 1028.
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  - Belfast and Newry Barracks, Troops Quartered in, *Dec. 18*, 1640.
  - Blacksod Bay.
    - Coastguard using Service Rifles for Sporting Purposes, Complaint, *Dec. 16*, 1339.
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  - Carrigbyrne Dispensary Medical Officer—Eligibility of Women Medical Officers, *Dec. 18*, 1621.
  - Clonmel—Religious Persuasions of Resident Magistrate, County Inspector, Head Constable, etc., *Dec. 11*, 919.

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  - Cork Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Delay in placing Labourers in possession of additional Plots, *Dec. 9*, 557.
  - Crimes Act of 1887—Members of Parliament imprisoned under Act, Number of Sentences pronounced between Oct. 27 and Dec. 14, *Dec. 17*, 1587.
  - Dispensary Medical Officers, Filling Vacancies—Decision of the Medical Association as to Salaries, *Dec. 16*, 1340.
  - Drumconrath Dispensary Vacancy, Smallness of Salary—Meeting of Medical Men in Drogheda, *Dec. 8*, 236.
  - Dublin.
    - Post Office—Date of Last Examination for Women Clerkships, *Dec. 11*, 921.
    - South Dublin Union—Refusal of Local Government Board to sanction Building Loan, alleged, *Dec. 17*, 1506.
  - Education.
    - Capitation Grant—Date of Payment, *Dec. 15*, 1221.
    - Inspectors' Report, Publication of, proposed, *Dec. 18*, 1632.
    - National School Teachers—Payment of Consolidated Salaries Grievance, *Dec. 18*, 1633.
  - Glasnevin Institute—Removal of Mr. Read from position of Bee Instructor, *Dec. 9*, 455.
  - Gort Resident Magistrate, Removal of Capt. Pery, alleged—Reasons for Removal from Belmullet, *Dec. 11*, 918.
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  - Hackney Breeding—Disappearance of Challenge Cup given by Congested Districts Board, Steps taken to recover Cup, *Dec. 8*, 237.
  - Hill-street Sub-Postmastership, Reasons for Removal of Mr. John Beirne, *Dec. 11*, 920.
  - Kilbride, Mr. D., Trial of, at Maryborough Assizes—Number of Roman Catholic Jurors ordered to stand aside, *Dec. 15*, 1220.
  - Land Purchase Bill—Instructions as to preparation of material and collection of facts on which to base a Bill, *Dec. 9*, 456.
  - Land Question—Conference between Landlords and Tenants, Official Statistics, Attendance of Expert Land Commission Official proposed, *Dec. 16*, 1340.

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